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Warning that pensioners are taking 'drastic measures' to make ends meet

ELDERLY LIVING IN POVERTY 'COULD EXCEED 2 MILLION'

BY **KATIE HARRIS**
Senior Political Correspondent

THE total number of older people living in poverty risks going over two million, claim campaigners.

OAPs are taking "drastic measures" to make ends meet – skipping meals, taking fewer baths and showers as well as cutting their electricity use, according to research by Age UK.

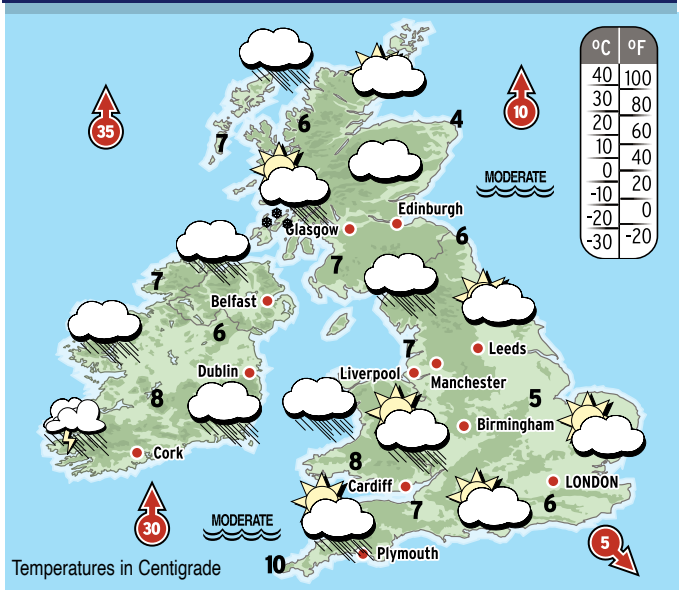
Around 1.9 million, one in six pensioners, already live in poverty but the charity fears that figure is set to exceed two million as the population ages – unless the government takes more action to address the problem.

Age UK's charity director Caroline Abrahams warned: "As a country we need to do a lot more to tackle poverty among older people, a social ill set to worsen as our

TURN TO PAGE 4

DX1ST

WEATHER FORECAST



Today's summary: Chilly sunshine; evening rain

North West: Cloudy with drizzle. Turning overcast later. Breezy with cool temperatures. High 5C (41F).

Northern Ireland: Wet with rain and drizzle, mostly light and patchy though. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 6C (43F).

Wales: Cloudy, turning wet later. Mild with brisk winds. High 6C (43F).

Midlands: Dry with sunny periods, although more cloud later. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 5C (41F).

North East/Yorks: Dry with sunny spells, but a cloudier afternoon. Light winds. High 6C (43F).

Scotland: Cloudy with light drizzle later. Overcast skies throughout. Brisk southwesterly winds. High 7C (45F).

East Anglia: Sunny and dry with just a little patchy cloud. Gentle southerly winds. High 5C (41F).

London/South East: Sunny spells, turning overcast with drizzle. Light breezes, mild temperatures. High 6C (43F).

South: Sunshine and showers will be replaced by cloud and rain later. Moderate northerly winds. High 6C (43F).

South West: Mainly cloudy with the chance of a shower later. Gentle north-westerly winds. High 7C (45F).

Channel Isles: Cloudy with outbreaks of rain or drizzle, mostly quite light. Fresh westerly winds. High 9C (48F).

Sea: North Sea: Moderate. Irish Sea: Moderate. Channel: Rough.

UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW: Expect mild weather with variable cloud, light winds, and occasional sunny spells. Showers may develop later, particularly in western regions.

SIX-DAY FORECAST Temperatures in Centigrade

	THU min	THU max	FRI min	FRI max	SAT min	SAT max	SUN min	SUN max	MON min	MON max	TUE min	TUE max
London	4	9	4	10	4	9	4	8	3	7	2	6
Belfast	1	6	3	6	4	7	5	7	3	6	3	6
Birmingham	2	8	4	8	4	8	3	6	3	6	2	5
Cardiff	4	8	4	9	4	8	4	8	3	8	2	6
Glasgow	1	7	2	6	2	7	3	7	2	6	2	6
Manchester	2	8	4	8	4	8	4	7	3	7	2	6
Newcastle	2	7	2	6	4	6	3	6	3	6	3	5
Norwich	4	8	4	8	4	8	4	7	2	6	2	5
Plymouth	6	9	6	10	5	10	6	9	5	9	4	8

Britain yesterday

24 hours to 5pm	SUN (hrs)	RAIN (ins)	TEMP (min)	TEMP (max)
Aberdeen	0.1	0.33	2	4
Aberporth	0.4	0.00	8	9
Alnwick	1.4	0.11	5	6
Belfast	5.1	0.09	4	6
Birmingham	0.0	0.13	5	10
B'mouth	0.0	0.57	10	11
Bristol	0.0	0.23	8	10
Cardiff	0.3	0.11	7	10
Durham	0.7	0.04	6	7
Edinburgh	2.4	0.11	4	5
Glasgow	3.0	0.18	4	6
Hull	0.0	0.03	7	9
Ipswich	0.0	0.34	7	9
Leeds	0.5	0.01	4	8
Lincoln	0.0	0.23	6	9
London	0.0	0.38	7	11
Manchester	1.2	0.04	7	9
Oxford	0.0	0.10	7	10
S'hampton	0.0	0.54	10	11
St Andrews	2.1	0.06	4	5

Britain Extremes: (24 hours to 11pm Monday)
Warmest: Bude, 13c (55f).
Coldest: Cassley, 3c (37f).
Wettest: Tyndrum, 1.72ins.
Sunniest: Kinloss, 5.2hrs.

Moon, sun and tides
MOON rises: 4.53am, sets: 12.03pm
SUN rises London: 8.00am, sets: 4.19pm
Manchester rises: 8.17am, sets: 4.18pm
New Moon 18 January

HIGH TIDE

London B'ge	(10.08am), (10.37pm)
Liverpool	(7.50am), (8.21pm)
Greenock	(8.59am), (8.55pm)
Dover	(7.39am), (8.20pm)

Lighting-up times

Belfast	4.27pm-8.37am
Birmingham	4.22pm-8.10am
Bristol	4.29pm-8.08am
Glasgow	4.14pm-8.37am
London	4.19pm-7.59am
Manchester	4.18pm-8.17am
Newcastle	4.08pm-8.21am

Europe forecast

Today			Tomorrow		
Amsterdam	Rain	7C/45F	Amsterdam	Rain	8C/46F
Brussels	Rain	8C/46F	Brussels	Cloudy	10C/50F
Dublin	Rain	7C/45F	Dublin	Fair	7C/45F
Frankfurt	Rain	8C/46F	Frankfurt	Rain	9C/48F
Geneva	Sunny	9C/48F	Geneva	Fair	9C/48F
Lisbon	Fair	15C/59F	Lisbon	Showers	14C/57F
Madrid	Rain	12C/54F	Madrid	Rain	9C/48F
Paris	Drizzle	12C/54F	Paris	Fair	12C/54F
Rome	Cloudy	16C/61F	Rome	Cloudy	15C/59F

Around the world yesterday

		C	F			C	F			C	F
Amsterdam	Drizzle	8	46	Hong Kong	Sunny	22	72	New York	Sunny	3	37
Athens	Sunny	10	50	Istanbul	Sunny	4	39	Nice	Cloudy	14	57
Barcelona	Fair	14	57	Jersey	Drizzle	9	48	Nicosia	Shwrs	11	52
Berlin	Mist	2	36	Larnaca	Fair	14	57	Perth	Sunny	30	86
Budapest	Sleet	-6	21	Las Palmas	Sunny	20	68	Prague	Cloudy	3	37
Cairo	Fair	16	61	Los Angeles	Sunny	22	72	Singapore	Fair	30	86
Cape Town	Sunny	26	79	Luxor	Sunny	19	66	Stockholm	Cloudy	-1	30
Casablanca	Cloudy	18	64	Malaga	Fair	12	54	Sydney	Shwrs	27	81
Corfu	Sunny	11	52	Mallorca	Sunny	17	63	Tel Aviv	Thndr	14	57
Dublin	Sunny	6	43	Malta	Fair	15	59	Tenerife	Drizzle	22	72
Dubrovnik	Cloudy	7	45	Melbourne	Cloudy	19	66	Toronto	Snow	-1	30
Faro	Thndr	15	59	Miami	Cloudy	24	75	Tunis	Sunny	16	61
Florence	Shwrs	8	46	Moscow	Cloudy	-8	18	Venice	Cloudy	5	41
Gibraltar	Cloudy	14	57	Nairobi	Fair	23	73	Vienna	Sleet	-1	30
Guernsey	Rain	10	50	New Delhi	Sunny	18	64	Warsaw	Cloudy	-5	23

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'Humiliating'... PM U-turns on digital ID cards

Divisive scheme made voluntary

BY **KATIE HARRIS**
Senior Political Correspondent

LABOUR is set to abandon plans for mandatory digital IDs in what the Tories branded "yet another humiliating U-turn".

Sir Keir Starmer said the scheme would be compulsory to work in the UK when he announced it last year as part of efforts to tackle the small boats crisis.

But it will now reportedly be voluntary when it is introduced in 2029.

Shadow Cabinet Office minister Mike Wood said: "Keir Starmer's spinelessness is becoming a pattern, not an exception.

Petition

"What was sold as a tough measure to tackle illegal working is now set to become yet another costly, ill-thought-out experiment abandoned at the first sign of pressure from Labour's backbenches."

Reform UK leader Nigel Farage pledged that his party would scrap digital ID altogether.

He said: "This is a victory for individual liberty against a ghastly, authoritarian government."

A government source said that the compulsory element "was stopping conversation about what digital IDs could be used for generally". They told The Times: "Stepping back from mandatory-use cases will deflate one of the main points of contention. We do not want to risk there being cases of some 65-year-old in a rural area being barred from working because he hasn't installed the ID."

The U-turn comes after almost three million people signed a petition on the official Parliament website against the introduction of digital ID. A YouGov poll also showed public support for the idea has plummeted.

The reversal follows a long line of U-turns by Labour, including on scrapping winter fuel payments for most pensioners and the family farms tax.

The government said: "We are committed to mandatory digital right-to-work checks. We have always been clear that details on the digital ID scheme will be set out following a full public consultation which will launch shortly. Digital ID will make everyday life easier, ensuring public services are more personal, joined-up and effective, while also remaining inclusive.

Another reversal for Keir Starmer

Decade wait for Northern rail link work to even start

BY **MARTYN BROWN**

KEIR Starmer's plans for a new northern rail link have hit the buffers after it emerged work won't begin for 10 years.

The government said the line from Manchester to Birmingham was part of a major overhaul of northern infrastructure.

It came after a previous plan to extend HS2 between the cities was axed by Rishi Sunak's Tory government in October 2023.

The Treasury said the link would not be "a reinstatement of HS2", but ease pressure on the West Coast Main Line.

Mirage

However, work on it is not expected to begin until the £45billion wider overhaul of east-west northern rail links finishes in 2036.

Shadow Rail Minister Jerome Mayhew said: "Labour lurch from review to review, deadline to deadline, with no grip on costs, no clarity on scope and no courage to make decisions. Under Labour Northern Powerhouse Rail risks becoming a permanent mirage that is endlessly redesigned, downgraded and never delivered."

CORRECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

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OPINION **12** TV **37** LETTERS **42** STARS **44** CITY **45** SPORT **51** **PLUS** PUZZLES PULLOUT

Here's looking at ewe...

Feeling Sheepish by Ian Cairns was highly commended in the South Downs National Park photo competition; from top left, Blue at Sunset by Emma Varley, A Hobbit Hole in Hampshire by Simon James Newman, Hungry Pecker by Richard Murray, main category competition winner Three Giants by Richard Murray, and Young Stonechat by John Lauper

MIND you don't get my baaad side...a sheep blocks out the glorious downland views as it poses for a close-up in a display of shear vanity.

The moment was captured by Ian Cairns in an image called Feeling Sheepish, which was highly commended in a photo competition celebrating the 15th anniversary of the South Downs National Park.

Visitors were asked to snap their favourite things about the 628 square miles of downland stretching from Winchester to Eastbourne, spanning the

BY **CHRIS RICHES**

counties of Hampshire, West Sussex and East Sussex, which was designated a national park in 2010.

The winner of the main category was Richard Murray's Three Giants, winning the top prize of £250 with an image of three fabulously crooked trees reaching their twisting branches into the mist.

Trees were also a feature of third-placed A Hobbit Hole in Hampshire, by Simon James Newman, showing a "tunnel" of green surrounding a woodland track in a scene straight out of JRR Tolkien's Lord of the Rings. A stonechat sitting on a bramble branch won second place in the wildlife category for John Lauper.

Also highly commended were Emma Varley's Blue at Sunset, in which a butterfly is silhouetted against the evening sky, and Hungry Pecker by Richard Murray, showing a great spotted woodpecker tapping the bark looking for a spot of grub.

Judges included acclaimed photographers Howard Klein, Rachael Talibart, Finn Hopson, and Carlotta Luke, as well as Vanessa Rowlands, chair of the National Park Authority.

ELDERLY STRUGGLING

Freeview axe 'to hit vulnerable hardest'

BY **STEPH SPYRO**

THIRTEEN million households face having to pay an "expensive broadband contract" if Freeview TV is scrapped, activists warn.

Ministers are set to decide whether to turn off terrestrial signals and force viewers to rely on internet-based TV.

Outgoing BBC director general Tim Davie has urged the government to press ahead with axing traditional TV broadcasts.

But Dennis Reed, director of campaigners Silver Voices, said: "There will be political fury if the government takes the rash decision to scrap Freeview. Thirteeen million households will find their rooftop aerial is no longer working, and they will be forced to take out an expensive broadband contract to continue watching their favourite shows.

"Universal free-to-air TV has been a feature of UK society for 75 years...All this is being put at risk through the selfish attitudes of broadcasters, led by the BBC."

He added: "The government, too, seems to think that forcing people to conduct all their business through the internet is the way forward... On behalf of millions of older and disabled people, and those on low and modest incomes, Silver Voices will fight tooth and nail to stop Freeview being scrapped."

Essential

Lynette Nightingale, 80, of Kent, said terrestrial TV was essential for her. She added: "I tried watching programmes online with family members, and they stop part way through with a whirling circle and then an error message appears. I tried a streaming service and didn't like it. It is time-consuming and irritating trying to work out where I want to be, to remember the sequence of clicks, with hieroglyphics instead of words."

More than 11,000 people have signed a Silver Voices petition urging the government to pledge to keep Freeview terrestrial TV until at least the mid-2040s.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport said: "We are committed to ensuring no one is left behind as TV viewing increasingly moves online. That is why the government is working on a long-term sustainable approach to TV distribution for years to come.

"This will include a decision on whether to further extend the current commitment to digital terrestrial television until at least 2034."

EXPRESS VOTE

Should the government do more to help pensioners living in poverty?

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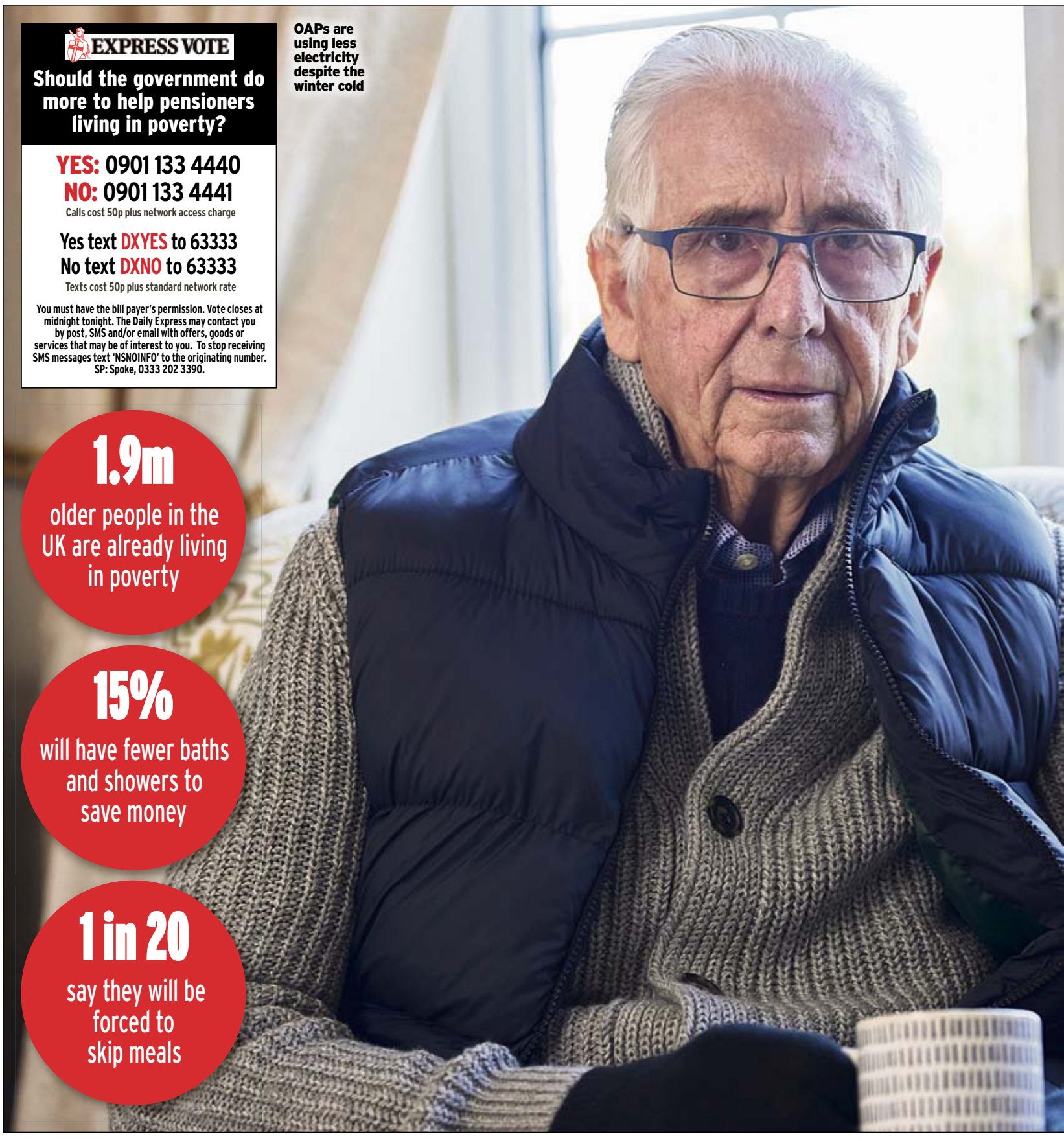

1.9m
older people in the UK are already living in poverty
15%
will have fewer baths and showers to save money
1 in 20
say they will be forced to skip meals

OAPs are using less electricity despite the winter cold

FROM PAGE ONE

population ages...unless something changes and soon – 1.9 million older people are already living in poverty and we worry that this number will pass the two million mark within the next few years."

Polling for the charity found that one in three of the over-65s who were asked said that they are using less electricity this winter in an attempt to manage financially.

Some 15% admitted they will take baths or showers less often while 5%, or 690,000 people, said they would be forced to skip meals.

Age UK is running a campaign Crisis Hiding in Plain Sight, encouraging older people to check if they are entitled to more cash support including pension credit.

That benefit tops up income to a minimum level and acts as a gateway to other assistance.

Some £3billion in benefits that older people are entitled to went unclaimed in 2023/24 – which is the most recent year for which figures are available.

The charity said that many pensioners miss out because they assume that they will not qualify, or they find it too difficult to complete the application process.

Ms Abrahams said: "In our view the government's pension credit take-up initiative needs turbocharging this year and we urge ministers to commit to that.

"Meanwhile, at Age UK we'll certainly be doing everything we can to spread the word and to support older people who are potentially eligible to claim their due.

"In 2025, Age UK's national advice line helped 6,006 older people with benefit checks and applying for benefits, identifying more than £36million of support – averaging at £5,900 per person."

She continued: "This year our ambition is to exceed that if we can, because we know it's one of the most important contributions we can make as a charity.

"For any older person trying to

JANUARY BLUES FOR MANY LEFT PENNILESS UNTIL NEXT MONTH

ONE in three people expect to run short of cash before the end of January – and half of those say tomorrow is when they will go broke.

Researchers for money platform Intuit Credit Karma found one in seven Brits will take out new credit products this month to cover the shortfall and get ahead of their expected debt.

Its data indicated that January 8 was the most popular day to apply for such help last year. Eleonore Hajek, the firm's head of product for UK and Canada, said: "The new year is often when people take stock of their finances.

"But for many, that moment of reflection can quickly turn into concern, especially around mid-January when the reality of festive spending and a longer time between pay cheques catches up with you." She said those considering a balance transfer card should make sure they understand the terms.

Ms Hajek also advised people to have a clear repayment plan in place, "so January becomes a turning point rather than a pressure point". Opinium Research surveyed 2,000 people across the UK in December for Credit Karma.

BY **VICKY SHAW**

‘We must do a lot more to tackle poverty among older people’

COMMENT

CAROLINE ABRAHAMS
Charity Director, Age UK

SOME four years now into the cost-of-living crisis, life remains extremely tough for older people living on very tight fixed incomes.

Inflation may be down compared to before, but the cumulative impact of all the rises in utility and food bills over the last few years is hitting older people hard today and every day.

We also often hear from pensioners who were frugal throughout their working lives and expected to enjoy a comfortable retirement, but who now find their careful planning has been overtaken by price hikes on all sides, leaving them in a bind.

Without the triple lock, the position would have been even worse – a rebuke to those who say that this crucial policy should now go.

Joyless

But the truth is that the triple lock is not enough on its own to prevent 1.9 million older people from experiencing poverty in the UK, equivalent to almost one in five of all over-65s.

Many of them are compelled to resort to keeping their heating turned down low or even off for periods in winter, limiting their meals, cutting out non-essentials like the occasional small treat, and not showering or bathing every day – a joyless existence and one that can undermine their mental and physical health too.

And the solutions? More generous state pensions, a real government effort to get vital top-up benefits like Pension Credit to older people in desperate need, and guaranteed cheap deals for energy and other utilities, to reduce outgoings.

It is within the government’s power to act.

live on a small retirement income, every single pound counts.

“Even a small weekly top-up could make a tangible difference.”

Ms Abrahams added: “So, if you reach state pension age in 2026 or if you’ve been a pensioner for longer and have not yet looked into what you can claim, please contact Age UK to check your entitlement. We’re here to help.”

Problem

Dennis Reed, director of the Silver Voices campaign group for older people, said that the research “nails the lie that the triple lock is no longer necessary”.

This policy ensures that the state pension rises each year in line with whichever is the highest figure out of 2.5%, the inflation rate or earnings growth. Mr Reed said: “In its wider review of the state pension system the government needs to recognise that at the root of the problem of pensioner poverty is the scandalously low level of the basic state pension.

“No pensioner should have to rely on a bundle of benefits to eke out their retirement in a semblance of dignity.”

He went on: “The basic state pension needs to be raised to at least half average earnings (£350 per week), the frozen tax thresholds need to be lifted and the triple lock must continue until all pensioners can afford to heat their homes in the winter.”

Jan Shortt said OAPs struggle

Jan Shortt, general secretary of the National Pensioners Convention, called the report a “shocking insight into the day-to-day struggles faced by a rapidly growing number of older people”.

She added: “And it is clear from their findings that the numbers facing poverty will continue to rise sharply if nothing is done.

“NPC members increasingly tell us they cannot make ends meet as the cost of food and energy bills continue to soar.

“The much-touted increases in our many-tiered state pension just don’t cover them. It is heartbreaking that so many older people are still not claiming the billions of pounds in benefits.

“We all must do more to encourage uptake. However the government must do more to help older people claim the financial help they are due.” Ms Shortt urged ministers “to make the application process simpler”.

Priority

She continued: “They must be more proactive in identifying those who qualify for benefits and pension credit. It’s just not an option for the government to say they are doing enough.”

The Daily Express has a long-running crusade calling on the government to protect the state pension triple lock. Labour has committed to it for the duration of this Parliament.

A government spokesman said: “Supporting pensioners is a top priority and our commitment to the triple lock means millions of older people are set to see their state pension rise by up to £2,100 with an extra 47,300 pensioner households awarded pension credit – worth up to £86 a week.

“Nine million pensioners have benefited from the winter fuel payment helping them pay their energy bills and the £150 warm home discount has been expanded to six million households.”

Yonder surveyed a total of 2,659 people over 65 in the UK in October and November 2025 as part of the research.

● *Age UK can be contacted on 0800 169 6565 – or log on to ageuk.org.uk/benefits*

OPINION: PAGE 12

TO READ ALL THE BEST POLITICAL STORIES OF THE DAY GO TO EXPRESS.CO.UK/POLITICS

Ricin plotter Kamel Bourgass

Terrorist cop killer deemed 'too risky' for deportation

BY **MICHAEL KNOWLE** and **ISAAC CROWSON**

AN al-Qaeda terrorist jailed for murdering a policeman and plotting a poison attack cannot be deported because he is too dangerous.

Security chiefs fear failed asylum seeker Kamel Bourgass could not be monitored properly if he was returned to Algeria.

And the Parole Board was told there are "credible reports" of people being detained and tortured in the North African country.

Bourgass was denied parole. The published decision papers revealed: "The panel had concerns about the likely effectiveness of the plans to manage risk if Mr Bourgass were to reside in the UK.

"And it noted the likely limited monitoring and support that might be available in Algeria.

Torture

"After considering his offending, progress while in custody and the evidence at the hearing, the panel was not satisfied release would be safe for the protection of the public, whether in the UK or Algeria."

The terrorist, who has strong links to hate preacher Anjem Choudary, was jailed for at least 22 years for killing Det Con Stephen Oake during a police raid in 2003.

And in 2005, the Algerian failed asylum seeker was jailed for 17 years for plotting to spread poison and ricin across the UK.

Bourgass had discussed smearing it on car door handles in North London.

He has been issued with a deportation order by the Home Office but cannot leave while in custody. The terrorist would also face the threat of torture, a Parole Board decision said.

Experts said his removal had been refused because it would undermine public confidence in the criminal justice system.

PM 'too weak' to block China's mega-embassy

Pictures: TIM MERRY

Drawing of the former Royal Mint as the new embassy and, left, a protest against the plan last year and how the building looks today

BY **AARON NEWBURY**

KEIR Starmer has been branded "too weak to stand up to China" amid fears he will allow a mega-embassy said to be a front for spying.

The condemnation came after unredacted papers revealed 208 secret rooms planned for the consulate in the former Royal Mint, including a chamber running alongside Britain's most sensitive financial cables.

Former Home Secretary Priti Patel said: "These latest revelations are yet another reason to reject China's sinister plan for a spy-hub super-embassy in the heart of our capital.

"Keir Starmer is too weak to stand up to China and kowtows to Xi Jinping at every opportunity, even when it means putting Britain's security at risk.

"Labour should put British interests first for once and throw out the proposal."

Starmer and China's Xi Jinping last year

Sir Keir is rumoured to be visiting China in the next few weeks and could give the OK beforehand to oil the cogs.

Another Tory former Home Secretary, Suella Braverman, said: "Keir Starmer and the Labour government are being manipulated by the Chinese Communist Party as the useful idiots that they are."

The unredacted plans revealed on Monday show a network of underground chambers, including one just meters away from fibre-optic cables carrying critical data between the financial hubs of the City of London and Canary Wharf.

It is fitted with hot-air extraction systems, suggesting it will be used for heat-generating equipment such as spy computers.

Shadow national security minister Alicia Kearns demanded answers in Parliament yesterday. She told MPs the cables carried "millions of British people's emails and financial data, and access would give the Chinese Communist Party a launchpad for economic warfare against our nation".

Addressing housing minister Matthew Pennycook, who was put up by Labour to answer the national security grilling, she added: "The Home Office and the Foreign Office say security concerns have been addressed.

"So I put to the minister, had any minister seen these unredacted plans before the Telegraph uncovered them, and if not, why not?"

He repeatedly refused to answer and insisted the government had "not misled the House". He also said "all material considerations", including national security, would be taken into account before a decision is made.

But he faced a revolt from his own benches, with Labour MP Sarah Champion – chair of the Commons International Development Committee – saying: "I am in no doubt this mega-embassy should not be allowed to go ahead."

Neither the Home Office, Foreign Office nor Housing Department have confirmed whether officials saw the plans before they were redacted.

OPINION: PAGE 12

COMMENT

DR ALAN MENDOZA

Executive director of the Henry Jackson Society

THE government's apparent readiness to approve China's super-embassy is not diplomacy. It is foolish negligence.

As ministers privately acknowledge China poses a "systemic challenge" to national security, it is extraordinary they appear willing to permit the largest Chinese embassy in Europe to be constructed beside some of our most sensitive communications.

Plans show an underground network of 208 rooms, including a concealed chamber alongside fibre-optic cables carrying financial data for the City and communications for Canary Wharf.

The question is not if such a facility could be used for espionage. It is why we would knowingly create the conditions in which it will be. China's history of espionage is not speculative or ideological. MI5 has warned Parliament, civil servants, economists and think-tank staff that they are being actively targeted.

British communication networks have been compromised in global cyber-espionage campaigns attributed to Beijing.

Critical

It would be ignorant to suppose that attacks like those where the AI assistant Claude was retooled by hackers in November are anything other than experiments for a greater, more damaging strategy.

The notion that proximity to critical data cables is a trivial concern borders on the absurd. Modern espionage is not limited to tapping wires.

It is about interdicting information; exploiting vulnerabilities and positioning oneself to manipulate or disrupt at opportune moments.

Beijing does not separate commerce, diplomacy and intelligence. Embassies are not merely diplomatic outposts: they are operational hubs for influence, surveillance and pressure.

To approve this embassy would send very dangerous signals. That Britain understands the threat yet is unwilling to act; that economic convenience trumps national security; that warnings from our intelligence agencies can be overridden to avoid causing offence.

We can engage with China without inviting it into the wiring room of our economy. If this proceeds, it will be testimony to the failure of statecraft.

Justice Secretary Mr Lammy

Lammy 'is clueless' on his own plan to axe juries

BY **MICHAEL KNOWLES**

THE plan to curb some jury trials in order to end a backlog descended further into farce as a minister contradicted David Lammy on details.

The Justice Secretary was said to be "clueless" about his own plans after courts minister Sarah Sackman admitted they would be retrospective.

Thousands already charged with an offence may be tried by a single judge without jurors.

Ms Sackman told MPs "it's something we have to look at" despite Mr Lammy ruling it out.

Tory MP Sir Ashley Fox asked: "So when [Mr Lammy] said it won't be retrospective, that wasn't a wholly accurate answer?" Trying to defend him, she said: "I think the answer he was giving was in the context of a question on remand hearings."

Sir Ashley hit back: "No, he said the changes won't be retrospective."

Shadow Justice Secretary Robert Jenrick said: "Once again David Lammy has shown himself to be clueless about his own proposals. He blatantly misled the public."

Two million in 'tax trap'

A RECORD two million workers are set to earn more than £100,000 from April – placing them in the "six-figure tax trap".

The top tax rate of 45% applies to those earning above £125,140.

But the cut in certain allowances for those earning over £100,000 means people with a salary between the two figures face an effective tax rate of 60%.

They pay up to 62 pence in every pound on that part of their earnings once national insurance and tax are factored in.

Around 1.2 million workers passed the threshold in the 2021-22 tax year, but that is expected to rise to 2.3 million by 2028-29.

Protesters from both sides outside Villa Park before game in November

EXCLUSIVE

BY **AARON NEWBURY**

Jewish fans ban police force spent £2.8m on diversity

WEST Midlands Police spent almost £2.8million on diversity schemes before banning Jewish football fans from attending a match knowing extremists planned to attack them.

The force spent nearly £2.6m on salaries for diversity, equality and inclusion staff plus £184,602 on training between 2019 and 2025.

But the massive investment failed to prevent what Jewish leaders branded a "disgraceful" decision to ban Maccabi Tel Aviv fans from a Europa League match against Aston Villa in November, rather than protect them from threatened violence.

Tory leader Kemi Badenoch said police "knew extremists were planning to attack Jews for going to a football match" but their response was to "blame and remove Jewish people instead".

Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood is reportedly considering sacking Chief Constable Craig Guildford, who has also faced calls to resign.

Provocations

The outrage follows a Commons home affairs committee inquiry which heard evidence the police made the decision to ban the fans first, then sought to find the justification. Dame Karen Bradley, its chair, accused officers of misleading Parliament after they falsely claimed 600 Maccabi fans previously attacked Muslim neighbourhoods in Amsterdam. Dutch officials refuted this, saying provocations came "from both sides".

Police also exaggerated Amsterdam's officer deployment from 800-1,200 officers to 5,000 to justify their position.

Most damningly, officers falsely claimed local Jewish leaders supported the ban – which was formally denied by Ruth Jacobs, chair of Birmingham and West Midlands Jewish Community. The Israeli foreign ministry called the force's conduct "utterly disgraceful", branding it antisemitism."

Jonathan Hall, the Home Secretary-appointed independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, said: "The demonisation of Israelis matters because it is a vehicle for hatred of Jews. I do not believe the law is being enforced as it should be."

The controversy has raised questions about the role of Green Lane Mosque in police decision-making. Mr Guildford was appointed in 2022 after appearing before a panel including its representatives and they were also consulted about the Maccabi fan ban. A speaker from the mosque previously said men can physically discipline their wives.

West Midlands Police has been scaling back its diversity spending, with just four related jobs remaining last year. It was asked to comment.

Graham Guildford

THE policing scandal that marred the Aston Villa v Maccabi Tel Aviv match, played in November, is much bigger than one fixture.

Political pressure to stop the match quickly mounted.

The local "Gaza Independent" MP and councillors demanded it be cancelled, arguing the area around the ground was a "predominantly Muslim community".

At the Safety Advisory Group meeting police and councillors decided no away fans would be allowed, despite admitting to an "absence of intelligence". When Birmingham council asked for a clearer rationale, police suddenly claimed to have "significant intelligence" portraying Maccabi supporters as uniquely violent, based on alleged disorder involving Israeli fans in Amsterdam.

That account was untrue. Dutch authorities have flatly contradicted it, describing the Amsterdam violence as a "Jew hunt" against Israeli supporters, not attacks by them. Only later did the real picture emerge.

As early as September, West Midlands Police had high-confidence intelligence Islamist extremists were planning to arm themselves to attack Maccabi fans.

Rather than confront that threat, the force excluded the would-be victims and then fit up evidence to justify their decision. West Midlands Police has made itself the tool of Islamist extremists. The Chief Constable must go.

COMMENT

NICK TIMOTHY

MP and Aston Villa supporter

PALESTINE PROTESTERS 'STIR UP HATRED AND RISK KILLINGS'

PRO-PALESTINE protesters calling for the deaths of Jews have contributed to them being targeted for murder, the government's terrorism tsar has warned.

Jonathan Hall, independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, said marchers spouting extremist views should be arrested for "stirring up racial hatred".

He compared it to imam Abu Hamza's calls for "jihad and martyrdom outside Finsbury Park Mosque", warning it could spark a rise in terror attacks.

Mr Hall told a Policy Exchange think tank event: "Targeting of Jews for murder coincides with two years' worth of public calls for death, if those calls are read literally. Abu Hamza...preached that it was acceptable to kill non-Muslims (Kafirs) and necessary to go after the blood of Jews. His public words should have been understood much sooner as a genuine call to deadly action. Lord Ken Macdonald is carrying out a review on public order and hate crime legislation.

"Stirring up racial hatred...is a vital precursor offence to deal with some of the public hatred we have seen on our streets." The lawyer said some protesters were willing to "normalise" attacks in the UK.

BY **MICHAEL KNOWLES** Home Affairs Editor

Prime Minister is 'on board'

Sir Keir 'will help govern Gaza' with US leader

BY **DAVID WILLIAMSON**

SIR Keir Starmer is expected to join the team which will oversee Gaza under Donald Trump's plan to bring peace to the region.

The UK's Prime Minister is likely to be one of the diplomatic big hitters running the war-torn Strip on a temporary basis as part of a 20-point peace plan.

The Gaza Board of Peace will be chaired by the US president. Its aim is to ensure Hamas, a terror group that used to run Gaza, disarms, and investment flows into the Palestinian territory.

Mr Trump said: "You take the most important leaders and nations, that's who the board of peace is going to be."

Objected

Members will supervise a future technocratic government made up of "qualified Palestinians and international experts", according to The Times.

Senior figures from Egypt, Germany and Italy are due to join the body, which will also include the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

It is unclear whether former Labour PM Sir Tony Blair will be part of the team, despite the White House saying in September he would be.

It is reported that Middle Eastern states have objected to Sir Tony, owing to his role in the invasion of Iraq.

Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, said that Bulgarian diplomat Nickolay Mladenov – a former defence and foreign minister who was a United Nations peace envoy – would serve as the board's "designated" director-general.

Hamas has said it will dissolve its existing administration in Gaza once the Palestinian technocratic committee takes over.

Trump tells protesting...

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump · 13m
Iranian Patriots, KEEP PROTESTING - TAKE OVER YOUR INSTITUTIONS!!! Save the names of the killers and abusers. They will pay a big price. I have cancelled all meetings with Iranian Officials until the senseless killing of protesters STOPS. HELP IS ON ITS WAY. MIGA!!! PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP

BY **GILES SHELDRICK**
Chief Reporter

DONALD Trump has urged Iranians to take over their country's institutions, promising "help is on its way" as 2,000 were reported to have died in two weeks of nationwide protests against the hardline regime.

The US president said he had cancelled talks with officials from the Islamic republic, who he previously claimed were willing to negotiate with Washington following his threats to avenge their deadly crackdown.

He urged protesters not to give up hope, and suggested anyone who kills or abuses those opposing the regime would be punished.

He posted on Truth Social yesterday: "Iranian Patriots, KEEP PROTESTING – TAKE OVER YOUR INSTITUTIONS!!!

"Save the names of the killers and abusers. They will pay a big price. I have cancelled all meetings with Iranian Officials until the senseless killing of protesters STOPS. HELP IS ON ITS WAY."

He offered no details about what the promised help would entail.

But he moved to isolate Iran by declaring that any country that does business with the Islamic Republic faces a 25% tariff on its dealings with the US.

In another post on his Truth Social platform he said: "Effective immediately, any country doing business with the Islamic Republic of Iran will pay a tariff of 25% on any and all business being done with the United States of America.

Tensions

"This order is final and conclusive."

Iran, a member of the Opec oil producing group, has been heavily sanctioned by Washington for years.

It exports much of its oil to China, as well as to Turkey, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates and India.

It is unclear what legal authority Mr Trump would use to impose the tariffs, or whether they would be aimed at all of Iran's trading partners.

But the development has ratcheted up tensions with China, Iran's biggest trading partner, which has criticised the American move.

China is one of a small number of countries willing to circumvent US sanctions to do business with Iran.

Estimates suggest it buys at least 80% of Tehran's shipped oil, possibly as much as 90%.

It also holds significant investments, with its companies financing construction and infrastructure projects in the Middle East.

Its embassy in Washington said Beijing would take "all necessary measures" to safeguard its interests and stands opposed to "any illicit unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction".

It added: "China's position against the indiscriminate imposition of tariffs is consistent and clear.

"Tariff wars and trade wars have no winners, and coercion and pressure cannot solve problems."

China's foreign ministry said it would "firmly safeguard its legitimate and lawful rights and interests".

US-based monitoring organisation HRANA said 1,847 protesters, including nine children, had been killed since nationwide demonstrations began in Iran on December 28. The group said 135 government-affiliated personnel had also been killed, as well as nine people thought to be civilian bystanders.

This brings the total death toll close to 2,000, in line with an estimate given by an Iranian official earlier yesterday.

It came amid reports that the regime was due to start executing protesters today.

Among those facing "imminent execution" is 26-year-old Erfan Soltani, just four days after he was arrested during protests in his home city of Fardis.

According to the Norway-based Hengaw human rights group, he was charged with "waging war against God", which is punishable by death in Iran. Hengaw said Mr Soltani was "facing the imminent execution of a death sentence following a rapid and opaque judicial process".

It said his family has been informed about the execution scheduled for today and were given just 10 minutes to say goodbye.

Supporters said he was denied the chance to mount a defence.

The National Union for Democracy in Iran said: "He was denied access to a lawyer. Erfan's only crime was calling for freedom."

Iranians were yesterday able to make phone calls abroad for the first time in days after authorities severed communications during a crack-

Families hunt for bodies of loved ones in mortuary near Tehran

AS perhaps thousands of protesters have been murdered on the streets of Iran by the Islamic Republic's forces of repression, some in the West are lambasting President Donald Trump for delaying his promised intervention.

But it's by no means as simple as some might think, despite the overwhelming US power demonstrated in Venezuela and against Iranian nuclear facilities last year. However, it looks as though a decision has been reached as Trump tells the protesters help is on the way.

The primary objective ought to be to strike back at the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and other regime targets to further weaken the ayatollahs, deter their murderous henchmen and encourage the protesters.

That can be done by various means, including air attacks on critical infrastructure, direct action against

Iranians: Keep on help is on its way

Protest in Tehran against regime led by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, right. Left, Trump pledges help

COMMENT

COL RICHARD KEMP

Former British Army commander

top-level leadership, covert operations, maritime blockades and cyber attacks, or a combination.

Weak-kneed commentators counselled against direct military intervention, claiming it might cause the people to rally round the ayatollahs' flag. Far from it: huge numbers are risking death to bring down a regime that repressed them and caused decades of economic mismanagement.

Indeed, one of the uprising's main triggers was airstrikes by the US and Israel last year, showing oppressed Iranians that a publicly humiliated regime could perhaps be overcome. Nevertheless, Trump's intervention must be carefully calibrated yet decisive. The last thing we can afford is symbolic action that changes nothing but leads to the regime killing thousands more.

There is also more at stake than saving lives, vitally important though that is. If the end result is a US-friendly government in Tehran, that will have immeasurable geostrategic consequences, not least denying Russia and China an important ally and adding dramatically to China's energy dilemma created by Maduro's seizure in Venezuela.

The Tehran regime is desperate, as we can see from its reported desire to negotiate with the US. But whether the end comes sooner or later, we expect longer-term chaos in Iran, with a fragmented opposition and an absolute determination by the IRGC deep state to cling to power.

Yvette Cooper in the Commons

down. Yesterday, Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper announced plans for "full and further sanctions" against Iran in moves that would target finance, energy, transport, software and other significant industries.

She also summoned the Iranian ambassador over the "brutal" killings of protesters but it is understood the meeting at the Foreign Office lasted just nine minutes.

In a statement to Parliament she said she had spoken to the Iranian foreign minister to make clear Britain's "total abhorrence of the killings, the violence, and the repression" in the country. She said: "Just as they did in 2022, it's clear the Iranian regime are trying to paint these protests as the result of foreign influence and instigation. They're using that accusation to try to whip up opposition to the protests amongst anti-Western Iranians and try to justify their vicious and sickening attacks on the ordinary civilians marching through the streets. These are nothing but lies and propaganda being spread by a desperate regime. They must not be allowed to undermine a genuine grassroots movement drawing together people from all parts of Iranian society and spreading across multiple cities and regions. And that is why we and other governments across the world are determined not to play into the hands of the regime or to allow our words or actions to be twisted to support their lies and propaganda.

Mr Soltani is due to be executed

"The world is watching Iran, and the UK will continue to confront the regime's lies, to call out its repression and to take the steps necessary to protect the UK's interests."

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said "we are now witnessing the final days and weeks" of the Iranian regime as other European countries also summoned the country's ambassadors to answer for the increasing violence.

Inflation

Mr Merz added: "When a regime can only maintain power through violence, then it is effectively at its end. The population is now rising up against this regime."

Protests started on December 28 when shopkeepers took to the streets of Tehran over another sharp fall in the value of its currency, the rial, against the US dollar.

The rial has plunged to record lows over the past year as inflation has soared, meaning basics such as cooking oil and foods have spiralled to unaffordable prices.

Dissent spread to at least 186 cities and towns across the country.

Red Arrows' first female chief

Sasha Nash takes charge of aerobatic team

WING Commander Sasha Nash has taken charge of the Red Arrows – the aerobatics team's first female chief.

The former Tornado pilot, who has served in Afghanistan, was six when she made up her mind to join the RAF. And she said she hoped to "inspire future generations of aviators from all backgrounds".

The job puts her in command of the 150-strong unit of air and ground crew, based at RAF Waddington, Lincs.

Wg Cdr Nash, whose career was inspired by fast jets at air shows, said: "That ambition stayed with me throughout school, where I achieved a sixth-form

BY **DEAN MURRAY**

scholarship and subsequent university bursary to join the RAF. If someone had told me 20 years ago that one day I'd be Officer Commanding of the Red Arrows, I don't think I would have believed it. This is a career opportunity of a lifetime."

Originally from Surrey, Wg Cdr Nash succeeds Adam Collins, who has just completed a three-year tour.

She was previously Chief of Staff in the Display Wing Headquarters, working alongside the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, and played lacrosse for England.

OPINION: PAGE 12

MUST BE WON
£13.1
Million
Jackpot*
Tonight
Play on app
Lotto
*Estimated jackpot. Prizes will be rounded down to the nearest £1. Account Terms, Rules & Procedures apply. Players must be 18+ and physically located in the UK/IOM.

Clintons refuse to testify at the Epstein inquiry

BY **ALLISTER HAGGER**

FORMER US president Bill Clinton and wife Hillary, once secretary of state, face being held in contempt of Congress after refusing to testify in the Jeffrey Epstein inquiry

The couple yesterday declined to comply with a subpoena to testify in a congressional committee's investigation of the late paedophile financier. In a letter released on social media, the Clintons slammed the House oversight committee probe as "legally invalid".

They wrote that committee chairman, Republican Representative James Comer, was on the cusp of a process "literally designed to result in our imprisonment".

Financier Epstein and ex-president Clinton

The Clintons, of the rival Democrat party, added: "We will forcefully defend ourselves. We have tried to give you the little information we have. We've done so because Mr Epstein's crimes were horrific."

They accused Comer of allowing other former officials to provide written statements to the committee, while selectively enforcing subpoenas against them. Mr Comer said he would begin contempt of Congress proceedings next week.

He added: "No one's accusing the Clintons of any wrongdoing. We just have questions." Mr Clinton has never been accused of wrongdoing in connection with Epstein but had a well-documented friendship with the wealthy financier during the 1990s and early 2000s.

Mr Comer added: "Anyone would admit they spent a lot of time together."

President Trump has been in a similar situation to the one Bill Clinton now finds himself in.

When he was subpoenaed by the House committee investigating the deadly January 6, 2021, riot by his supporters, his lawyers said decades of legal precedent shielded an ex-president from being ordered to appear before Congress. The committee withdrew its subpoena.

Epstein was arrested in 2019 on federal sex trafficking and conspiracy charges. His death in a New York jail, awaiting trial, was ruled as suicide.

Mandelson finally apologises

LORD Peter Mandelson has finally offered an "unequivocal" apology to the victims of Jeffrey Epstein for staying pals with the paedophile after his conviction.

On Sunday, the former UK ambassador to the US, *inset*, declined to say sorry to victims in his first major broadcast interview – on the BBC's Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg – since he was sacked by PM Sir Keir

BY **DAVID LYNCH**

Starmer. He only apologised for a system that meant Epstein's victims were not listened to, but not for his association. But on Monday he told Newsnight: "I was wrong to believe him following his conviction and to continue my association with him afterwards.

"I apologise unequivocally for doing so to the women and girls who suffered."

With Peter in Candid Camera

Tributes for TV prankster Sheila after death at 94

BY **JASMINE ALLDAY**

CANDID Camera and Coronation Street star Sheila Bernette has died aged 94, the Royal Variety Charity announced yesterday.

The actress and comedienne was a prankster on the UK version of the hidden-camera show, hosted by Peter Dulay.

Her quick wit and comic timing, honed on the variety circuit, helped her play tricks on the public, such as posing as an old lady needing help to cross the road then turning cartwheels.

Born in Marylebone, Central London, to Italian parents, 5ft Sheila used to wear her hair high to appear taller.

Her first TV role came in 1955 in police show Fabian of Scotland Yard.

During a long career she starred with Sir David Jason, Morecambe and Wise and Tommy

Sheila as Sister Delaney in Coronation Street in 1973

Cooper, as well as in pantomimes with the likes of Cilla Black and Leslie Crowther.

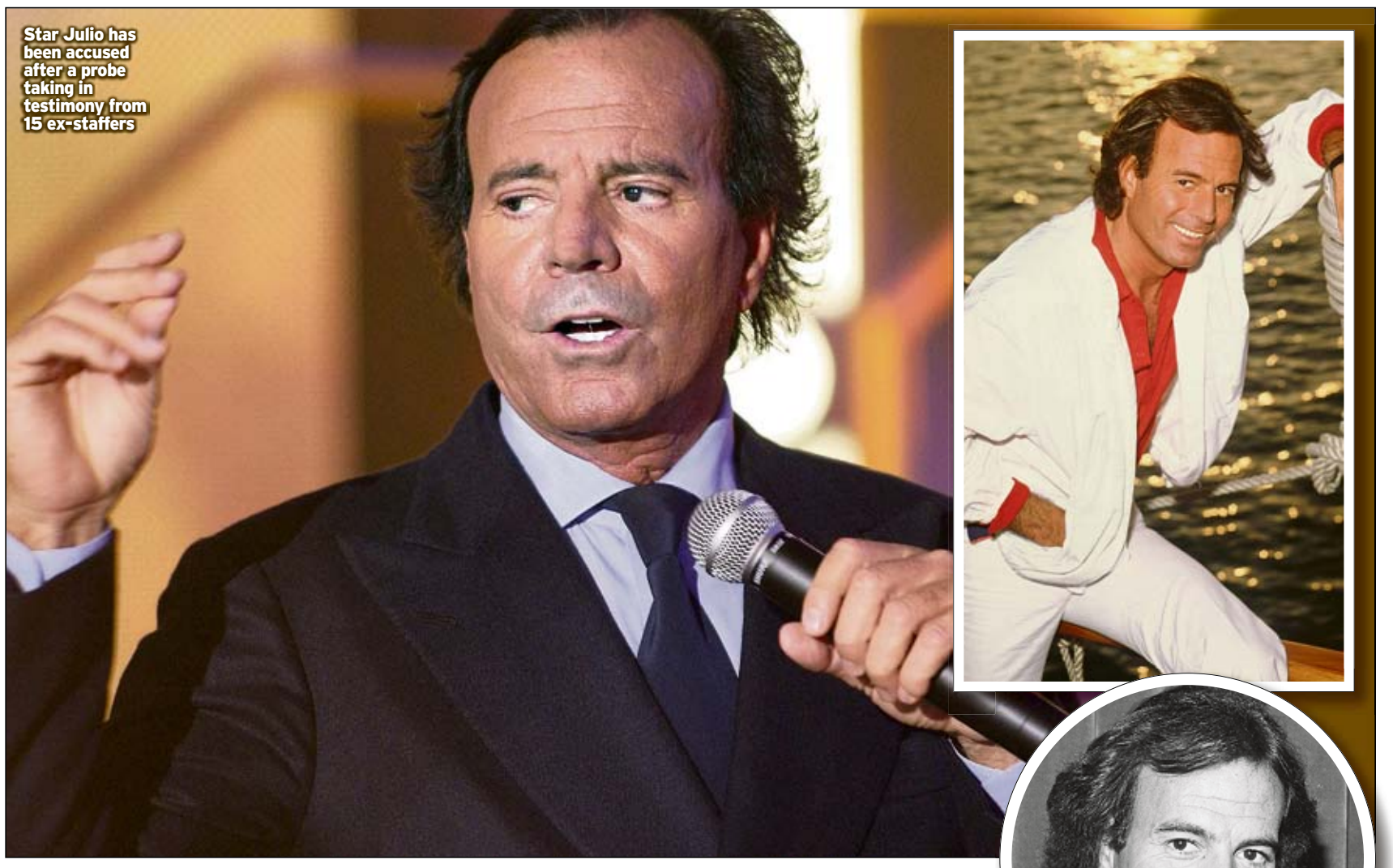
In Coronation Street she played Sister Delaney in 1973 and appeared in BBC variety show The Good Old Days from 1968 to 1983.

Later in her career, she starred in kids' favourites The Queen's Nose and Hotel Trubble.

Paying tribute, actor and friend Peter Kosta, 77, said: "I was looking for digs and Sheila said, 'Well, if you're clean, I have a spare room in my house'. She supported me in everything that I wanted to do, and always came to see me in everything I did."

The Royal Variety Charity, which looks after workers in the industry, said Sheila will be "very much missed".

Iglesias accused of sex assaults on staff at 'house of horror'



Star Julio has been accused after a probe taking in testimony from 15 ex-staffers

Investigation into singer, 82

BY **REBECCA JONES**

SINGER Julio Iglesias has been accused of sexually assaulting live-in staff at his Caribbean homes, according to reports.

Two former employees have claimed they were subjected to "inappropriate touching, insults and humiliation…in an atmosphere of control and constant harassment".

The two women, who were employed at the star's homes in the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas, alleged they were targeted by him in 2021.

The allegations emerged after an investigation by the Spanish TV network Univision Noticias and news site elDiario.es, which collected testimonies from 15 former employees of the 82-year-old between the late 1990s and 2023.

Yesterday, the Spanish National Court prosecutor's office said it was investigating the allegations against one of Spain's most celebrated artists.

One of the accusers claims she was regularly called to his bedroom at the end of the working day and subjected to non-consensual sexual contact.

According to her graphic testimony, she claimed to have been subjected to verbal and physical abuse, leaving her feeling "like a slave". The abuse would only stop when the star's wife or other guests were visiting, she claimed.

The woman told elDiario.es: "I felt compelled to do things without the option of saying no.

"That house should be called the house of horror because it's a nightmare, a horrible place."

In her account to elDiario.es, she alleged she was subjected to forceful

'Inappropriate touching, insults and humiliation...in an atmosphere of control'

digital penetrations which "caused her a lot of pain".

The second woman claimed the singer kissed her on the mouth and touched her nipples without her consent, including during an incident at a beach and another by a pool at one of the properties. According to the report, the youngest of the two accusers was 22 at the time of the alleged incidents. In its report yesterday, elDiario.es claimed: "The two women who reported sexual assault were interviewed repeatedly over more than a year, and their accounts remained consistent throughout."

Iglesias's representatives have been contacted for a comment.

An unnamed woman, who was one of the victims' first supervisors at Iglesias's mansion in Punta Cana, in the Dominican Republic, dismissed the allegations as "nonsense".

She described him as a "humble, generous, great gentleman, and very respectful to all women".

The singer was also supported by the conservative head of the Madrid region, Isabel Ayuso, who wrote on X: "The region of Madrid will never contribute to the discrediting of artists and still less so when it comes to the most universal of all singers: Julio Iglesias."

The prosecutor's office at the National Court said it had opened preliminary proceedings.

Due to Spanish secrecy laws, no additional details could be provided.

A spokesman said yesterday: "In view of the news reports published today concerning Julio Iglesias and given the interest shown by the media, I would like to inform you that a complaint was filed with the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Audiencia Nacional on January 5, 2026.

"Preliminary criminal investigation proceedings have been initiated, which, as you know, are confidential.

"Given the nature of the allegations and reiterating the confidential nature of the public prosecutor's investigation, and in the interests of protecting the alleged victims, it is not appropriate to provide further information."

Iglesias came to fame in the 1970s following a short career as a goalkeeper for Real Madrid's youth team, which ended due to a car accident.

He sold over 300 million records and duetted with Dolly Parton and Frank Sinatra. He has five children with wife Miranda Rihnsburger, 60.

DAILY EXPRESS

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Pensioner poverty crisis is shaming this country

BRITAIN is on the verge of seeing more than two million of its pensioners living in poverty and Sir Keir Starmer must scramble to stop a disaster that would shame the nation.

The pernicious myth that most pensioners spend their days on luxurious cruises or playing happy rounds of golf should finally be laid to rest.

The reality is that older people are so worried about paying their bills that they are skipping meals and taking fewer baths or showers.

Age UK describes this as a "crisis hiding in plain sight" and it should horrify Labour that it is unfolding on its watch.

A key problem is that many older Britons do not take the help that could transform their lives. Shockingly, around £3billion in benefits went unclaimed by senior citizens in 2023-24, the last year for which figures are available. Every effort must be made to ensure this cash reaches the people it was intended for.

The scale of impoverishment demonstrates why the triple lock – which ensures that the state pension rises by whichever is highest, 2.5%, inflation or average earnings – is vital and must not be ditched.

The government's own figures show that pensioner hardship would rocket without this crucial safeguard.

The state pension must never again be the plaything of politicians.

Even with this safeguard, too many older people are suffering on a daily basis. We cannot pretend to be a civilised society when we neglect men and women who should be cherished and honoured.

Embassy alarm bells

IT would be madness to allow China to build a spy fortress in the capital, masquerading as an embassy.

The Labour government and Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer have been lambasted by a former Home Secretary as "useful idiots" who are being "manipulated by the Chinese Communist Party".

Yes, China is crucial to the world economy and the UK must not sever diplomatic links with a country that will do much to define the shape of the 21st century.

However, it is deeply troubling that Britain seems poised to allow the development of an embassy packed with secret rooms – including a chamber that will be frighteningly close to fibre-optic cables that carry sensitive financial data.

The presence of this giant Chinese citadel in the heart of London would cause dissidents who have fled to the UK to fear for their safety.

Common sense must prevail and this building project must be halted.

Arrows fly to new hearts

GIRLS across the country will be inspired by the appointment of the first ever female commander of the Red Arrows.

As Officer Commanding, Wing Commander Sasha Nash will oversee all aspects of the legendary aerobatic team.

Not only has she shattered the glass ceiling, she is flying far, far above it and we hope she enjoys every day as the custodian of this spectacular national treasure.

Just say No to net zero – and unleash the UK economy

Extra pylons for Energy Secretary Ed Miliband's net-zero push scar the landscape

Picture: ROB BROWNE; GETTY

Tim Newark
Political Commentator

THE true cost of Ed Miliband's misguided net-zero project is way higher than the official figure of £7.6trillion, a report has revealed. Alarming analysis by the Institute of Economic Affairs shows that the already eye-watering figure is misleadingly low – being closer to £9tn and making it one of the most expensive government policies in British history.

With next to no democratic debate about it, net zero is aimed primarily at middle-class voters with the burden of costs falling on working people.

The cost of decarbonising British energy is a heavy one in both cash and jobs.

It has triggered the deindustrialisation of our country with many high-energy traditional industries leaving our shores.

Furthermore, new industries such as AI are being discouraged from investing in the UK thanks to the highest electricity costs in the world – a staggering five times more than in the US.

ONE of our great international success stories is the chemicals giant Ineos, but in the UK it is struggling under the high cost of energy with its Grangemouth oil refinery recently forced to shut down after 100 years in business, with the loss of some 400 jobs.

The Industrial Revolution made us rich and now net zero is making us poor. The start-up costs of so-called clean energy are through the roof, with the expense of providing updated energy infrastructure proving challenging to say the least.

Wind farms have been paid £205million simply to switch off when the weather is too windy and the grid cannot cope with it.

This is without factoring in the environmental impact of scarring the landscape with electricity pylons and vast solar farms. "The various public bodies responsible for working out the costs of net zero have not been entirely truthful in their analysis," says the IEA's author, David Turver.

"They have made fantasy assumptions about the cost of renewables and low-carbon technologies." And why are we putting ourselves through this pain, making us a weaker and poorer nation?

Back in 1989, the Green Party bagged more than two million votes in the EU elections and, ever since, politicians of all the main parties have believed there is some electoral value in sucking up to that mainly middle-class section of the electorate.

Tony Blair warmed to decarbonisation, for much the same reason as Margaret Thatcher – that it would end the power of the miners' union. Fatally, the Tories under Theresa May woefully enshrined the 2050 target in law. Countless middle-class climate-change professionals have joined the stampede towards net-zero riches, grabbing as much taxpayers' money as they can while pushing the cost on to working people through higher energy prices triggering rising inflation.

The extra expense of electric cars and heat pumps can only really be afforded by the comfortably off middle class.

It's a complete stitch-up by the political elite, inventing a crisis that only they can solve with extra taxes and higher prices. In reality, the climate has always changed over millions of years. We're actually living in a relatively benign period between ice ages, and a slight warming could actually have benefits for mankind.

Rising carbon in the atmosphere generates more plants and longer growing seasons, but the positives of climate change have been drowned out by middle-class propagandists. It really is one of the great conspiracies of the 21st century with the clearly anti-capitalist Miliband hellbent on continuing it, while other more sensible voices in the Conservatives and Reform can see its folly.

Donald Trump has also exposed it as an "emperor's new clothes" scenario and devoted his administration to reversing the damage by going all-out on dominating the carbon energy industry.

IT IS only to be hoped that evidence like that provided by the IEA's timely report can convince more and more policy makers to roll back the most destructive aspects of net zero before it is too late for our hard-pressed nation.

We already have enough problems not to saddle ourselves with a completely unwarranted, uncosted and overly expensive drain on our resources. It is Left-wing government ideology at its worst, ignoring practicality.

Say No to net zero – and unleash our economy and industry to provide the jobs and taxes that are needed for our nation to thrive.

'Climate change crisis is a stitch-up invented by elite'

Vanessa Feltz

FROM THE HEART

Mandy fails to learn a lesson from Andy

NOT since Shaggy's It Wasn't Me have we heard a more mealy-mouthed protestation of blamelessness than Lord Mandelson's pathetic offering on Laura Kuenssberg's "Sunday". Had he learned nothing from former prince Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor's TV failure to atone for his continued friendship with registered sex offender Jeffrey Epstein after his 2008 conviction for soliciting prostitution from a minor?

The world cringed as Emily Maitlis asked: "Do you regret the whole friendship with Epstein?" and the Queen's second son replied: "Now, still not and the reason being is that the people I met and the opportunities I was given to learn by him… were actually very useful."

Surely the years of toxic fallout from Andrew's tone-deaf inability to grasp the level of public revulsion generated should have guided the ex-US ambassador towards an immediate declaration of abject contrition? Taking his cue from the penitence Andrew failed to show, Mandelson ought to have apologised sincerely for his prolonged association with the man he dubbed in fawning emails his "best pal".

Instead, in a jaw-dropping display of "sorry/not sorry", Mandelson favoured the technique beloved of the shifty, delivering a faux apology for something way beyond his control. Addressing Epstein's victims, he declared: "I want to apologise to those women for a system that refused to hear their voices and did not give them the protection they were entitled to expect."

Mandelson wants to appear to convey compassion while letting himself off the hook entirely. Is he sorry? No! "If I was in any way complicit or culpable I would apologise… but I was not culpable."

I wonder what the LGBTQ+ community thinks of Mandelson's claim that because he is gay, he was somehow immune to his close pal's behaviour. Can he be peddling the immeasurably offensive notion that being homosexual makes you blinkered?

As for his contention that he believed his chum had been "falsely criminalised", because Epstein and his lawyers told him so – the mind boggles. How many of us feel the need to quiz our friends' lawyers? How many of us would ignore a guilty verdict because of our convicted mate's protested innocence?

Forgive my vulgarity, but after watching that shameful s***show did you, like me, feel like taking a dip in disinfectant?

Meghan back to take the biscuit

CAN it be true? Is the Duchess of Sussex really going to put her Aquazzura-shod feet back on British soil? Will she accompany Prince Harry to an Invictus Games event in Birmingham in her first visit to her husband's homeland since 2022? Crikey! Will Brum feel the pressure to spruce and gentrify to avoid unflattering comparisons with the Sussex estate in Montecito?

Which hostelry will be sufficiently charming to accommodate the self-styled domestic goddess? Her With Love, Meghan, Netflix show indicates she doesn't consider a welcome worth having without homemade biscuits and artisanal preserves. Will Queen Camilla toil away in the royal kitchens to show the Duchess the same curated care she bestows on guests? I fear a pack of Duchy of Cornwall shortbread might not have the desired effect.

No one can fight the call of nature

DON'T you adore nominative determinism? I love it when haberdashers are called Miss Ribbons and Mr Trimmings, magnates Richard Rich and orthopaedic surgeons Ms Legge. The idea your destiny is entangled with your moniker is explored in Florence Knapp's bestselling novel The Names.

My father blamed his fate on his name – Norman. He grew up to be Norman the Knicker King. "If only," he'd muse, "they'd called me Byron. I could have been composing sonnets."

I am enchanted by the story of the nightingale-rescuer and butterfly-conserver, chatelaine of former polluted farm, now bio-diversity estate Knepp. She and husband Charlie Burrell have transformed a monoculture landscape into a haven for turtle doves, Exmoor ponies and chiffchaffs. The national treasure's name? Isabella Tree.

Fat jab detectives call off the Atack

I can vouch for the fact that, if you're a woman in the public eye, you can't win weight-wise. Either, as I was, you are cruelly called "the woman who ate her audience" or you are "a scrawny bag of bones". Naturally thin celebrities are criticised for eating too little. Chubbier stars are derided for chomping all the pies. Weight-loss jabs have ramped up the vitriol. Armchair detectives are determined to out secret jabbers for "cheating".

Dawn French told me way back in 2000 whether you gain or shed pounds there will always be folk keen to say you look horrific – and she's right.

Emily Atack, a decent person and remarkably gifted actress, has been in the firing line for the crime of getting slimmer. The curves she displayed saucily as she played lusty nude tennis in Jilly Cooper's Rivals have been whittled down and she's getting it in the neck.

Carping commentators should back off. Emily's weight is her own business. She is under no obligation to "come clean". Actresses don't owe anyone full disclosure. And why don't male stars face this volume of judgment?

WAITROSE reports demand for pies and puddings has soared in the cold snap. Tell us something we don't know.

Marcel Proust may have been inspired to write all 12 interminable volumes of A La Recherche Du Temps Perdu by a single bite of a dry and tasteless madeleine. We Brits tuck into a mouthful of fragrant pie – apple, rhubarb, steak and kidney – and are instantly transported to memories of pies past.

I challenge you to recollect your grandma's signature pie without salivating and becoming slightly tearful. As a TV and radio host for more than 35 years – ask people about their "ancestral pie" and the telephone lines light up like Blackpool Illuminations.

HOURS OF DAILY SCREEN TIME IS ROBBING OUR TODDLERS OF THE ESSENTIAL ART OF CONVERSATION

LIFE with a baby or toddler used to involve a steady stream of speech pouring uninterrupted from adult to child. "Look! A leaf. It's green and shiny. Touch it. Feel it. No, don't eat it!"

I remember the magical moment when my monologue turned into dialogue. Eureka! My baby was a conversationalist. Yes, topics were limited. She was saying "Quack, quack" hundreds of times. Our chats, which have continued ceaselessly for nearly 40 years, were launched.

The devastating news that toddlers are struggling to speak as screen time for tinies soars to more than two hours a day sends a clear message. The Government must step in urgently and issue guidelines about screen time for young children.

The World Health Organisation recommends no more than an hour a day for two to four year olds. Keir Starmer must stop stalling and start guiding. That's what leaders are for.

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Frances Millar

To be frank...

DOLLMAKER Mattel has stiff competition for the notoriously short-lived attention spans of 21st-century kids. There's the endless entertainment abyss of the internet, video games like Minecraft and Fortnite, which are more like mini-universes to disappear into, and the latest craze KPop Demon Hunters. (If you have no idea what I'm talking about, ask any child. Preferably one you're related to. Obvs. Don't get arrested.)

There's only so much innovation you can wring out of a doll, which is why Mattel has put its energy into diversification.

No longer the white-skinned, blue-eyed, blonde with an impossibly tiny waist, long legs and tippy-toes perfectly shaped for stilettos, Barbies now come in a full range of skin tones, hairstyles and shapes (notably no Morbidly Obese Barbie though).

More recently, the inclusion push has shifted from appearance to diagnosis and disability. There's Blind Barbie with a cane, Down's Syndrome Barbie, Amputee Barbie, and even Diabetes Barbie with a glucose monitor. And, look there's Capitalism Barbie roller-skating to the bank hand in hand with Virtue-Signalling Barbie.

Meanwhile, I'm feeling painfully unseen. Where's Peri-menopausal Cat Lady Barbie? Dressed in jogging bottoms and a battered pair of trainers? Grey roots, a pronounced frown line and a bristle on her chin that magically grows back after being plucked out.

In one hand is a vape, and in the other a tumbler of white wine. Her accessories include a jute "bag for life" which doubles as a handbag, and a cat pawing at her for food.

This week Mattel unveiled Autistic Barbie designed with features that reflect common traits. Her eyes gaze slightly off-centre, her elbows and wrists are more flexible to recreate flappy hand movements. She comes with noise-cancelling headphones, a fidget spinner and a tablet displaying a communication app, and is dressed in a loose-fitting dress and comfy flat shoes.

And sure as night follows day, the launch prompted backlash, particularly from the autistic community, accusing Mattel of turning a spectrum of behaviours into a few stereotypes cutely packaged and cynically monetised.

Because any Barbie can be Autistic Barbie. Or ADHD Barbie, or Pop-star Barbie. She can walk on her hands, record a podcast and run a cake-decorating business wearing a ballgown. She's anything a child imagines her to be, not what Mattel's marketing strategy predicts will sell.

FIRST there was controversy over patriotic roundabouts, now its "socialist speed bumps". Motorists on an affluent London street say Labour-run Lewisham council has put in traffic-calming cushions so high they scrape expensive cars. Next it'll be "Look left, look right" markings confusing the electorate.

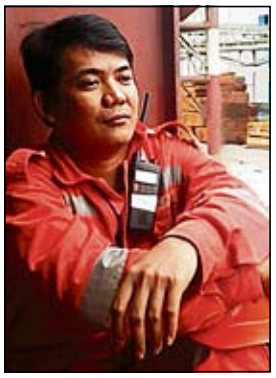
ISIT a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's the Nespresso Stormio pods you ordered. Amazon drones have taken flight for the first time from its base in Darlington. A limited number of test flights mark the soft launch of Amazon's drone delivery service, available to customers later this year.

Under the scheme, eligible Prime customers in the area can receive packages weighing under five pounds in less than two hours. Drones are equipped with advanced detection technology to spot and avoid obstacles that don't show up on satellite maps, such as washing lines or trampolines. Call me cynical, but I detect a flaw.

Does anyone, bar Amazon, actually want this trial to succeed when it could put thousands of delivery drivers' jobs at risk? I give it a month before half the fleet is either nicked or taken out by a well-aimed football.

AND the award for best actress goes to Amanda Seyfried... or it should have done. The Mamma Mia! star was up for two Golden Globes at Sunday night's ceremony, but knew she wasn't the favourite. Footage shows her starting to clap before winner Michelle Williams was announced. And when she lost to Rose Byrne she grimaced before standing up and applauding. An honest reaction in Hollywood is rarer than an un-Botoxed face. Better luck next time, Amanda.

frances.millar@express.co.uk



Victim Mark Angelo Pernia

Russian on trial for his crewman's ship death

BY **EMILY PENNINK**

A RUSSIAN ship captain is on trial over the death of one of his crew in an "entirely avoidable" collision with another vessel close to the Humber Estuary.

Captain Vladimir Motin, 59, was on sole watch duty when his container ship Solong collided with US oil tanker the Stena Immaculate, causing the death of Mark Angelo Pernia, 38, on March 10.

Opening his Old Bailey trial yesterday, prosecutor Tom Little KC said of Mr Pernia: "Ultimately, he would still be alive if it was not for the grossly negligent conduct of the man in the dock, the captain of the very vessel upon which the seaman was working.

"The captain owed him a duty of care to keep him safe and the defendant, we say,

Motin denies manslaughter

manifestly breached that duty of care and caused his death. The risk of death was serious and obvious and negligence was so bad, it was gross."

A jury heard the Solong was in the North Sea approaching an area where the Stena Immaculate and other ships were anchored.

Mr Little said: "Despite an obvious collision course, the defendant did absolutely nothing to avoid the collision."

The Solong was on a direct collision course for much longer than a matter of minutes, jurors heard. Mr Pernia's body has never been found.

Motin, from Primorsky, St Petersburg, denies manslaughter and the trial continues.

A mother's hug for first time in 51 years

Alan and Anne's Long Lost Family reunion

Anne left Alan when he was five

Alan and Anne meet for the first time since she left

BY **MARK JEFFERIES**

IN an emotional embrace, a man hugs the mother who walked out on him when he was just five years old more than 50 years ago.

In a new series of ITV's Long Lost Family, Alan Parker, 56, is reunited with Anne, who left him and his younger brother and sister with their father.

He had never been able to find out why she left their home in Reading, Berks, 51 years ago but Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell come to his aid in the series, which returns tomorrow.

Alan can remember Anne giving him an Action Man on his fifth birthday before she walked out, but could no longer recall what she looked like.

He says: "I remember my mum handing me my birthday present. I was delighted and then my mum left. I was looking out of the window and that is the last time I recall seeing my mum. I can't remember my mum's face or anything. Maybe it was too traumatic."

Alan says the family were initially happy but his mum and dad had rows. He adds: "My dad was not always easy to get on with. I think that is what turned it into such a bad relationship."

Alan does not say if he asked his dad what happened or if he tried to look for his mum after the family moved to East Anglia. But he adds: "Any way of knowing where we would have gone for my mum would have been nigh on impossible. I want to know her side of the story. I don't see it as her fault."

Alan with his partner Sue and mum Anne after an emotional reunion in ITV series

Davina says: "When I think about his search, I picture him as a little boy suddenly deprived of his mother's love and warmth. It must have been so hard."

Five decades ago, women who left their husbands did not have an automatic right to keep their kids. The crew find Anne through a distant relative. She is living on the south coast and has two children from her second marriage. She is shocked to learn Alan wants to get in touch.

Anne says: "I've often thought I'd like to [get in touch with my children] then I thought what if they say, 'After what you did, we don't want to know you'. That is worse than not meeting them."

Praising her bravery, Nicky says it is unusual for mothers who leave their families to want to appear on camera. Anne says she had to leave her marriage because she did not feel safe. She says: "The situation wasn't good. It wasn't happy and it got to a point where I thought it was safer for me not to be there. I got a bedsit and it was very small. No place for young children.

"What I had always hoped to do was get sorted out and then to have the children but within a year he had moved and I had no idea where he had gone. Nobody would divulge it."

When they meet, Anne says: "Let's get to know each other better. It doesn't feel like I don't know you. That bond went on and on. I have got my son back."

Car salesman Alan, who lives in Ireland with partner Sue and daughter Katie, tells Anne: "This is one of the most important days in my life. I have never felt any bias towards you or hatred.

"I was only ever sad because you had gone. All I ever did was miss you."

Also on the programme, care worker Katherine Fletcher gets help to learn what happened to her mum Adrienne.

She was told aged seven she had been adopted and struggled to find out the truth about why her mum vanished.

The trail leads them to Canada and Katherine receives sad and happy news.

● *Long Lost Family returns on ITV and ITVX on Thursday at 9pm.*

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Pictures: CARL COURT/GETTY

Bottled water is given to customers in Tunbridge Wells yesterday

Schools may close for a week as water dries up

Fury at fresh crisis

BY **GILES SHELDRICK** Chief Reporter

SOME schools may stay shut for a week after a failure to plug hundreds of leaks left 45,000 households without water in parts of Kent and Sussex.

Parents raged at South East Water amid a fresh crisis that has seen supplies cut off for days. Customers are being given bottled water.

The supplier, run by a consortium of foreign infrastructure funds, is losing 100 million litres daily – enough to fill 35 Olympic swimming pools.

It has been ridiculed for stating it aims to halve the leaks, but by 2050.

Areas including Tunbridge Wells, Canterbury and Maidstone have been hit, with residents having to use bottled water for drinking, cooking and washing. But some were left high and dry as emergency supplies ran out.

The latest shambles follows disruptions last year, with a hosepipe ban then a lack of water before Christmas.

One angry mum of two said: "This is the third time of having no water for extended periods in seven months – including 12 days before Christmas. If I didn't laugh I think I might cry.

"We've ordered a water butt, to flush the toilet, and several camping showers. The situation is intolerable."

Tory MPs Helen Whately, who represents Faversham and Mid Kent, and Mims Davies (East Grinstead and Uckfield) have called for South East Water's £400,000-a-year boss David Hinton to be sacked.

Urgent

Ms Whately said: "It is not for the first time that the chief executive of South East Water has shown us he is not up to the job."

Ms Davies added: "With multiple and repeated South East Water serious failings in the last five years this company needs urgent new leadership."

The firm is primarily owned by an Australian investment fund and Canadian pension and infrastructure group. Last year it slapped a hosepipe ban on hundreds of thousands of homes amid record-high demand for water and dry conditions.

Average households splash out around £500 a year for running water but customers in the South East have been hit with higher than usual price rises.

The firm said: "We know a price rise is never welcome, but to continue to supply your drinking water and make improvements to our services we need to increase prices."

Around 25 state and private schools have had to close, with parents forced to organise childcare all this week.

Emma Hickling, executive head of four schools in Kent, said thousands of pupils have had virtual lessons. She called a lack of information from the utility company "infuriating".

South East Water blamed a number of issues including the effects of Storm Goretti, burst mains due to freezing conditions and a loss of power at a pumping plant. It said that it is "committed to maintaining water supplies by providing an affordable, resilient and sustainable supply of drinking water for years to come.

"We're extremely sorry to all customers who currently have no water or low pressure."

It added Mr Hinton "remains committed to resolving the immediate issues facing customers... whilst continuing to seek to obtain the investment to deliver the much-needed improvements in resilience" to the network.

Warning on rising cost of flood works

BY **STEPH SPYRO**

TAXPAYERS may have to pay more to cover costs of flood protection, councillors have warned.

The Environment Agency will stop funding the maintenance of some areas' flood defences in April. But the District Councils' Network said this will make town halls pick up the bill to keep rivers free of obstruction.

It said floods could make roads impassable, devastate local economies, impact agriculture and damage the environment unless funds are diverted from other local services.

Councillor Paul Redgate has warned: "The withdrawal of funding for so many stretches of river amounts to cost-shunting from central government to already squeezed local taxpayers."

He added: "We urge the government to step in and provide extra funding for communities which, through no fault of their own, face growing risk of floods."

The Environment Agency was contacted for comment.

Trend is up after third hottest year

BY **EMILY BEAMENT**

LAST year was the third warmest on record as human activity drives an "unmistakable trend" towards a hotter climate, according to scientists.

The Met Office, University of East Anglia and the National Centre for Atmospheric Science, were among those releasing data for 2025.

It was the third year in a row with temperatures more than 1.4C above pre-industrial levels.

Last year was 1.41C above the 19th-century base and only 2023 and a record year in 2024 were hotter, according to data from the Met Office, UEA and NCAS.

Europe's Copernicus Era5 analysis recorded temperatures 1.47C over pre-industrial levels.

Met Office climate scientist Colin Morice said: "The long-term increase in global annual average temperature is driven by the human-induced rise in the concentration of greenhouse gases.

"Fluctuations in the year-to-year temperature largely result from natural variation."

Builder's river dash to keep working

Defiant Steve on water run to local river

A SELF-EMPLOYED builder has been forced to use river water to mix cement so he can keep earning money and support his family amid the ongoing water supply issues.

Around 16,500 properties in East Grinstead, West Sussex, have been without water since Saturday.

Kylie Pain, 42, says this means she has been unable to go to work at a country club as she has to stay at home to look after her young children.

Meanwhile, her husband Steve, a self-employed builder, has been forced to cancel several jobs as he is unable to work without water.

But defiant Steve, also 42, has been going to the local river to get enough water to mix cement.

Footage shows him lugging heavy bags of the murky water back to his van before driving them 10 minutes home and coming back for more. Kylie

BY **ISOBEL WILLIAMS**

says that the plan is working for now, but they are still desperate to get their mains supply back as soon as possible.

The mum of three said: "My husband has been running back and forth to the local river to see if he can get back to work because he is a builder and he can't mix cement.

"He got enough from the river to potentially start but obviously you need a lot of water for cement and things.

"We would have needed about 100 bottles.

"If he can't work then we get no money in. I can't work because the kids aren't at school so I will be losing money as well. Hopefully, the ducks don't mind! It wouldn't surprise me if other people are doing similar things because everyone is starting to get a bit desperate. People want to get back to work."

Kylie, *inset below with Steve*, says they are not the only business owners struggling, with the area becoming a "ghost town".

South East Water is handing out bottled drinking water at various pick-up points throughout the town, but most businesses are still unable to open for hygiene reasons.

Kylie says she has been told the supply will be back by tomorrow but she isn't hopeful. She said: "It's been absolute carnage. People are queueing for hours to get bottles of water. We are having to flush the toilet with rainwater."

Pictures: ROSS TURPIE

Furious rock god fan amid turmoil

Per Berthelsen and, inset, with his rock band Sumeword. Left, Trump fan Jorgen Boassen

BY **MARK MCGIVERN** in Nuuk, Greenland

A GREENLANDIC rock god has come out fighting against Donald Trump's desire to take over the country.

Per Berthelson's band Sume are revered as the fathers of rock in Greenland.

Now an MP, the 75-year-old is enraged by the antics of Trump supporter Jorgen Boassen, who has been promoting the idea of a US takeover to his fellow islanders.

Mr Boassen, 51 arranged Donald Trump Jnr's visit to Nuuk last January and has claimed Greenland is "on the brink of civil war" over Mr Trump Snr's plans to annexe the mineral-rich island.

Mr Berthelsen said: "I was going to keep out of the argument but I feel I have been drawn in.

"And there is one individual, really working closely with the United States, spreading fake news.

"Boassen is doing a lot of dangerous things, talking about a possibility for civil war in our country and so on.

"He come with a lot of fake news. He's not a politician. He's not an elected person."

Mr Berthelsen, the founder and former party leader of the ruling Demokraatit Party, said Mr Boassen's conduct could be in breach of Greenlandic law.

Sume, formed in 1972, performed songs in the Greenlandic language about culture and independence from Denmark.

But Mr Berthelsen has tempered his views and believes Greenland should only become independent when it is able to stand strong with its own economy.

The animosity flared up when Mr Boassen, a former stonemason, was accused of shouting in Mr Berthelsen's face outside a restaurant.

'We must strive for independence but the country is not ready right now to stand alone'

Mr Berthelsen said: "He came nose-to-nose with me and started shouting to me. He's an old boxer and 30 years younger than me so I would have no chance."

Since Mr Trump's threats to take over Greenland – whether via a cash purchase or an invasion – Mr Boassen has been his strongest supporter on the island.

He admits even some people in his own family despise his campaign, and claims his partner was fired from her role of 30 years with an airline soon after he attended events to celebrate Trump's inauguration in Washington, DC, in January 2025.

Speaking of Mr Trump Jnr's visit, alongside the assassinated podcaster Charlie Kirk, Mr Boassen said: "There was a greeting group at the airport of hundreds of people. There are very good reasons for Donald Trump to assume control or purchase or whatever process the president ends up doing to get control of Greenland."

Mr Boassen denied behaving aggressively towards Mr Berthelsen and claimed he was the victim.

He said: "He was shouting at me and his wife had to pull him away from me. I was not the aggressor." Mr Boassen insists Nato is a greater threat to Greenlanders' freedom than Mr Trump's America, add ing: "People say Donald Trump is the bad guy but it is not good that the Danish elite are running our country, that people who are fighting for independence are blacklisted?

"I would rather do a deal with Donald Trump than have more European soldiers in our country."

Mr Berthelson says most people do want to break free from Danish rule but the loss of a massive block grant would put many lives in difficulty.

He said: "My position on independence is that we must strive for that and prepare the way but the country is not ready right now to stand alone.

"We feel that we don't lose the weakest individuals in our country right now, due to the economic issues we could face. We should slow down talking about independence and concentrate on our present situation with a pressure from the United States, and strengthen up our links to Nato."

Greenland was ruled directly by Denmark from the early 18th century until 1979, when some measure of home rule began. In 2009, Greenland approved the Self-Government Act in a referendum. The act means that Greenland can assume additional areas of

'We can't sleep, children live in fear'

GREENLANDERS cannot sleep and children live in fear, the territory's energy minister said in the face of increasing threats from Donald Trump.

Naaja Nathanielsen said people in Greenland felt "betrayed" by the US president's demands to annex the semi-autonomous Danish territory as

BY **ALLISTER HAGGER**

she called for a peaceful solution. "People are not sleeping, children are afraid, and it just fills everything these days. And we can't really understand it," Nathanielsen said at a meeting with MPs in London.

She said: "We feel that the rhetoric is offensive, as we have said many times before, but also bewildering because we have done nothing but support the notion Greenland is a part of American national self-interest."

Ms Nathanielsen said her ministerial colleagues had "no intention of becoming American".

takes on Trump of takeover plans

Houses in Nuuk, Greenland's capital. Left, Donald Trump Jnr and Charlie Kirk on the island last January

responsibility but Denmark retains ownership of the island.

Mr Berthelson stressed that the last thing he wants is to be part of the USA, saying: "We don't want to be to be Americans. We are peaceful, tolerant, friendly people.

"We have never had war-like situations. We try to talk to each other in a polite and cultured way, and that's what we wish back from the United States of America, because we respect them.

"But in return they are treating us like something you can buy in a shop. We don't understand the way the president of United States is speaking, threatening us."

He added: "Donald Trump talks about Greenland without any recognition of our people being of flesh and blood.

"We have always looked on the USA as being the guardian of democracy.

"So that's what I'm sad about as an old politician, the language we are facing now seems so ruthless."

'America is treating us like something you can buy in shop. We don't understand the threats'

Russian-flagged tanker Marinera

Shadow fleet tanker taken by US spotted in UK waters

BY **NEIL POORAN**

AN oil tanker seized by the US last week for alleged sanctions busting has appeared in the Moray Firth.

The Marinera, a Russian-flagged vessel previously known as Bella-1, was seen in waters off the north of Scotland yesterday alongside a US Coast Guard vessel.

It was captured by US forces on Wednesday last week, with the assistance of the UK, as it travelled through the waters between Iceland and Scotland.

America accused the tanker of carrying oil for Russia, Venezuela and Iran.

It had reportedly been pursued across the Atlantic by US forces after approaching the naval blockade around Venezuela.

The ship initially falsely flew the flag of Guyana before switching to Russia's.

The Ministry of Defence said: "Deterring, disrupting and degrading the Russian shadow fleet is a priority for this government.

Nefarious

"Alongside our allies, we are stepping up our response to shadow vessels – and we will continue to do so.

"We will not comment on specific operational planning or give a running commentary on live maritime activity."

The government said of the seized ship's reappearance: "The Bella-1 entered UK waters to be replenished with essential supplies – including food and water for the crew – before it continues its onward journey."

It is understood the UK had no role in yesterday's operation as the tanker moved into our waters at the request of the US Coast Guard.

Defence Secretary John Healey previously said the action to seize the tanker was justified. He added: "This ship, with a nefarious history, is part of a Russian-Iranian axis of sanctions evasion which is fuelling terrorism, conflict and misery from the Middle East to Ukraine."

DX1ST

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Trustpilot

Picture: JAMES MANNING/PA

Shiver me timbers... it's new centrepiece for Diana play area

BY **JENNIFER NEWTON**

A FULL-SCALE wooden ship is set to make an unusual journey – to become part of a playground built in honour of the late Princess Diana.

Final touches are being made to the £3million attraction, which will be the new centrepiece of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Playground next to her old Kensington Palace home.

The play equipment was specially built in the foothills of the Bavarian Alps, and staff from Royal Parks inspected the galleon in Germany before it comes to London.

Andy Williams, park manager for Kensington Gardens, said the upgraded playground will be "faithful to the spirit of Princess Diana". He added: "It really reaches to children's imaginations, it lets them set free in a safe space."

The spot – which has an average of one million visitors per year, and is the UK's most popular playground, according to the Royal Parks – is having a huge transformation, and will reopen this summer. The 12-metre tall galleon includes a tunnel slide, two crows' nests and a ramped entrance for disabled access. There will also be a new treehouse, and redesigned water play area.

The wooden structure was constructed in the German village of Frasdorf by Timberplay and its partners Richter Spielgerate, the designers behind the Peter Pan-themed galleon for the playground's opening in 2000.

Head of planning at Richter Spielgerate, Peter Heuken, who also helped design the original galleon in 2000, said: "If equipment is run through and worn out by children, this is the biggest compliment one can get.

"We are so much in love with the place and the park that I decided we absolutely want to help redo it."

The Diana Memorial Playground first opened in June 2000 – three years after her death – on the site of a former playground opened in 1906 by Peter Pan author J.M. Barrie.

Mast is placed on new ship in Frasdorf, Germany/ Left, the original Peter Pan ship at the playground

Speeding 'King Kenny' is fined £1,000

LIVERPOOL football legend Sir Kenny Dalglish has been fined £1,000 for speeding in a 20mph zone.

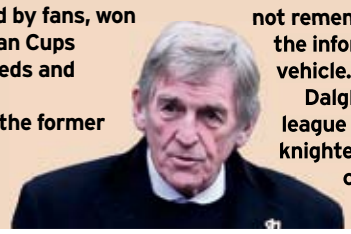
The 74-year-old was caught on a traffic camera doing 30mph in Crosby, Merseyside, in a silver Mercedes last September. He admitted the charge in a letter to the court.

"King Kenny", as he was dubbed by fans, won six league titles and three European Cups during his playing days with the Reds and notched up 102 caps for Scotland.

Magistrate Sylvia Yang handed the former player and manager, right, three penalty points on his licence and ordered him to pay a £1,000 fine, £120 in costs and a £400 victim surcharge. Court papers show Dalglish had also been charged with failing to identity himself as the driver of the vehicle, but the former forward pleaded not guilty to that offence, writing in a note to the court: "I do not remember receiving the letter asking for the information of the driver/rider of a vehicle." Police agreed to drop that charge.

Dalglish, who managed Liverpool to three league titles and two FA Cups, and was knighted in 2018 for services to football, charity and the city of Liverpool, did not appear in court.

BY **TRISTAN KIRK**



Older adults can boost their lifespan by walking

Stepping it up for 5 minutes can cut risk of early death

BRISK walking for an extra five minutes a day can reduce the risk of early death by 10%.

The Lancet study tracked 95,000 middle-aged and older adults in the UK as well as 40,000 people from Norway, Sweden and the US.

Data from the UK Biobank arm of the study also showed cutting our sedentary time by 30 minutes a day could reduce 4.5% of deaths, except for participants who were already very active.

The research, led by the Norwegian School of Sports Sciences, showed an extra 10 minutes of moderate exercise was linked to a 15% reduction in deaths.

Vigorous

It comes amid fears that older people who are generally inactive can give up on exercise and not realise a little can go a long way.

The report's co-author, Prof Melody Ding, of Sydney University, said: "Considering that it is unlikely for all individuals to achieve the World Health Organisation's physical activity recommendations of 150 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous-intensity physical activity weekly, our data underscores the large impact of realistic and achievable behaviour goals on population health."

A separate study, published in eClinicalMedicine, also drawing on information from the UK Biobank research database, outlined the key ways we can live longer.

BY **MARTIN BAGOT**

People who had the best sleep, exercised most and had the most healthy diets lived for 9.35 years longer than those with the worst sleep, lowest activity levels and poorest diets.

And they spent more of their lives in good health.

The team calculated that increasing sleep by five minutes per day, two minutes more of increased moderate to vigorous physical activity and half an extra portion of vegetables could increase a person's lifespan by one year for people with the worst sleep, lowest activity levels and poorest diets.

"This study demonstrates that small, concurrent improvements in sleep, physical activity and diet quality were associated with clinically meaningful theoretical gains in lifespan and healthspan," the research paper concluded.

Dr Daniel Bailey, sedentary behaviour expert at Brunel University of London, who was not involved in the study, said: "Getting inactive people to do some activity is where we see the biggest gains in health. Every minute counts."

Apps 'help smokers quit for longer'

PEOPLE trying to quit cigarettes could benefit from a stop smoking app, a study shows.

Researchers found the apps are particularly effective when used alongside stop smoking medication.

It found that even when used alone, smartphone apps may improve the odds of a person kicking the habit for six months.

When combined with other interventions, the apps increased the odds of people ditching cigarettes even more, it discovered.

Apps based on psychological-behavioural theories increased abstinence compared with "traditional behavioural apps".

Academics from China examined data from all studies on the effectiveness of stop smoking apps.

The review pooled details from 31 studies involving 12,800 people.

In journal BMJ Evidence Based Medicine, the authors said validated apps could become a cornerstone of global tobacco control efforts.

They added: "Smartphone apps may be effective for smoking cessation compared with no or minimal support."

BY **ELLA PICKOVER**

Psycho-behavioural apps worked best

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SCAN ME

Teacher Simon Taylor, 43

Army veteran jailed for sex assaults on teenage girl

BY **SAM RUSSELL**

A SOLDIER turned teacher who lost his leg while serving in Afghanistan has been jailed for four years and six months after sexually assaulting a teenage girl.

Simon Taylor admitted five offences, including sexual activity with a child by a person in a position of trust after touching the child.

He also admitted two counts of sexual communication with a child, and two counts of sexual assault – touching the girl in his car, once while she was a pupil and once after she had left the school.

Judge Andrew Shaw said the girl had "suffered severe psychological harm" during the two-year ordeal after Taylor, 43, had "targeted" the child at a Norfolk school.

He told Norwich crown court: "You groomed her, you manipulated her, you sent her indecent images of your genitalia."

Banned

And he said Taylor sent the girl "messages detailing some of the sexual acts you hoped to perform on her".

The judge added he could "see no identifiable link between your PTSD and your decision".

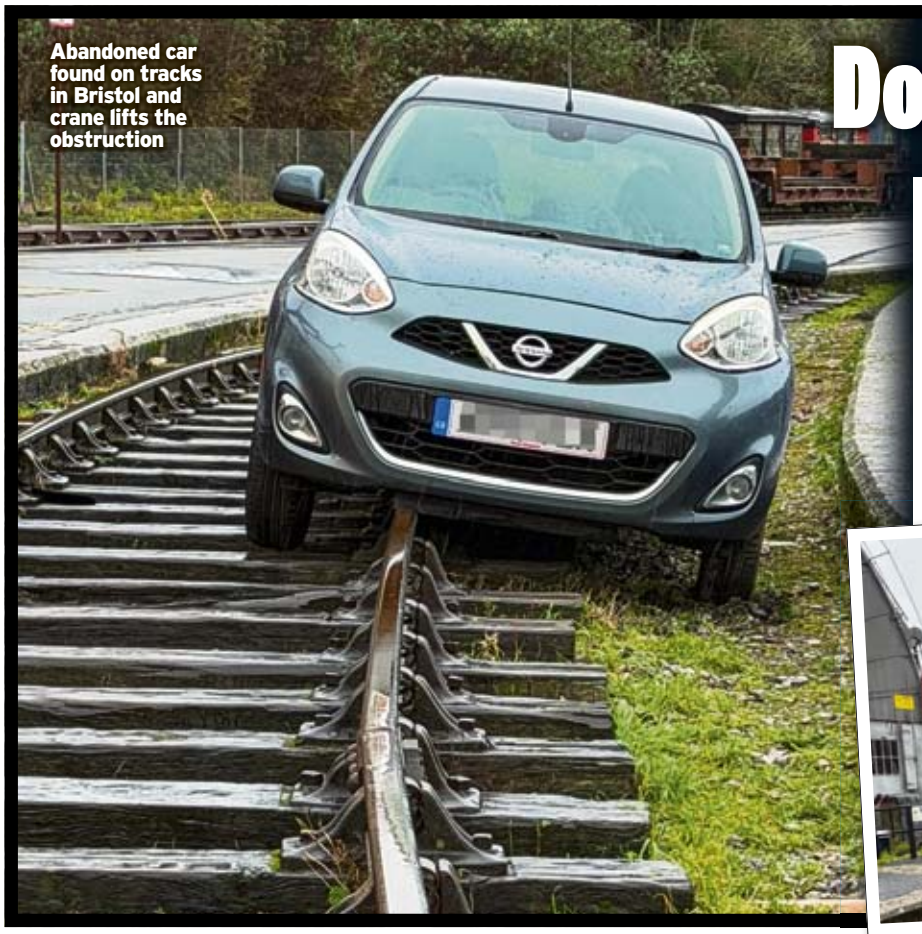
Taylor was ordered to sign the sex offender register, given a life-long sexual harm prevention order and a restraining order not to contact the girl or her parents or go to their address.

The married father, of Leamington Spa, Warks, was also told he would be banned from working with children.

The girl reported Taylor to police in 2022 and also "told his wife what he had done to her", said the prosecutor.

In her victim impact statement read in court, the victim said: "My childhood was stolen from me.

"I never had the chance to be a normal teenager."



Abandoned car found on tracks in Bristol and crane lifts the obstruction

Dozy parker in rail fail

FINDING a city parking spot can be tricky but this driver has clearly got their lines crossed and was unable to gauge their blunder until it was far too late.

And the confused owner might soon be railing about damage to the paintwork after the vehicle was lifted by a crane on to a truck and towed away.

Rescue services were called yesterday morning after the mystery vehicle was spotted at Bristol Harbourside.

It was not known how the car ended up abandoned on the historic railway line, which is disused except for the occasional steam train display by the nearby M Shed museum.

The Nissan was left close to where the tracks change from level with the road to sleepers, suggesting the car may have followed the line over the drop.

The industrial railway used to serve the docks but closed in 1964. A heritage railway using some of the old line has operated since 1978 but none were scheduled yesterday.

After subsidence, trains from the M Shed now take a curtailed route stopping near the SS Great Britain.

BY **ALLISTER HAGGER**

Migrant sneaks back in to UK for fifth time

Albanian Romeo Zani, 32, has been jailed

AN illegal immigrant who sneaked back into Britain on a trailer after previously being removed four times has now been jailed again.

Albanian Romeo Zani has an indefinite deportation order but repeatedly re-enters after being returned.

Zani, 32, came to the attention of UK authorities in 2017, when he confessed he had entered in the "back of a lorry" and been working illegally.

He will now be sent home for a fifth time having admitted another breach of his deportation order after he was found among car parts heading to the Nissan plant in Sunderland.

At Newcastle crown court he was sentenced to two years by Recorder Nicholas Worsley who lambasted Zani's "blatant attempt to flout deportation".

He said: "This will be the fifth occasion upon which you have ended up being removed from the UK. This offending undermines the fabric of society and enables criminality."

BY **PAUL JEEVES** Crime Editor

Prosecutor Michael Bunch said when Zani was caught in the sealed trailer he confessed he had travelled from Albania to Belgium where he paid someone £5,000 to smuggle him.

Zani claimed he made the illegal journey because his "life was in danger" in his home country.

The court heard Zani was first questioned in August 2017, when he confessed he had entered the UK in the "back of a lorry".

He admitted he had been working illegally and signed a voluntary departure order and was expelled in December 2017.

Zani entered the UK again, was arrested in January 2018 and convicted at Bristol crown court for offences including possessing fraudulent identity documents, conspiracy to possess a class B drug and money laundering. He was sentenced to 20 months behind bars.

In January 2019, he was made the subject of an indefinite deportation order and ejected in March 2019.

But, by January 2021, Zani was back in the UK and on the run.

In January 2024, he was finally arrested by West Yorkshire police, detained and launched a claim for asylum. That claim was refused in April 2024 and in May 2024 he was booted out for the third time.

On April 13, 2025, Zani was found on a yacht in Falmouth, Cornwall, and that August was ousted for a fourth time. But by December he was back again and was found hidden in a trailer bound for Nissan.

After his sentence he will then be sent home for a fifth time for his third breach of the deportation order.

Taser cop cleared of GBH after suspect left in wheelchair

A POLICE officer has been cleared of GBH after tasering a suspect who fell and was left a tetraplegic.

PC Liam Newman, 31, and a colleague were investigating an attempted burglary on a betting shop when the incident happened.

They were chasing Leonard Sandiford, 61, who climbed on to an outbuilding in Woodford Green, east London, in April 2022.

PC Newman tasered him and the suspect fell from a height of up to 6ft. Mr Sandiford's spinal cord was damaged and he now has to use a wheelchair, Southwark crown court heard. PC Newman was found not guilty yesterday. He was charged after a probe by the Independent Office for Police Conduct.

After jurors cleared him, Chief Superintendent Stuart Bell said: "Our thoughts today are with Mr Sandiford who has been left with life-changing injuries following this tragic incident.

"It is always a matter of huge regret when an individual comes to harm following contact with police and vital that in such circumstances officers be held to the highest level of scrutiny. They face challenging situations every day and have to make difficult decisions in the moment."

He added: "We understand the concern caused by incidents of this nature and will be working with our local residents, partner agencies, and key members of those communities directly affected to understand any impact and provide support. We believe Taser remains a vital tool but will continue to review its use and provide regular training to officers to ensure they are using the tactic appropriately."

PC Newman has been on restricted duties since the incident. The Met force said: "Now criminal matters have concluded, we will liaise with the IOPC around misconduct proceedings."

BY **MATHILDE GRANDJEAN**

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Con man Benjamin Molloy

Crook who ripped off elderly jailed and banned

BY **CHRIS RICHES**

A ROGUE roofer who scammed older residents out of thousands for shoddy work that left them "worse off" has been jailed following a Trading Standards probe.

Benjamin Molloy, 39, was the sole company director of JR Roofing Driveway Specialists Ltd.

He targeted victims in their 70s and 80s before carrying out unnecessary work that was disguised as repairs.

Preston Crown Court heard one victim was misled with false claims about dangerous defects, while another faced escalating demands for extra jobs and payments, only to be left with a leaking roof.

Lancashire County Council said: "Residents were left worse off than before Molloy began the work – and faced further repair bills."

Anguish

Now Molloy, of Colne, Lancs, has been jailed for 12 months.

He was also handed a five-year Company Director Disqualification Order with a three-year Criminal Behaviour Order – banning him from conducting or canvassing home improvements work.

A Trading Standards survey found that Molloy had "a clear lack of skill and knowledge, and that there were no structural defects in the properties".

The council said: "One woman who paid £17,450 was told the work was unnecessary and worthless, while another man's repairs were valued at just £450 – despite paying 10 times that amount."

Councillor Joshua Roberts said: "Rogue traders cause huge mental anguish to their victims and families, and we're pleased that justice has been served.

"Molloy preyed on older, vulnerable residents and thought he could get away with it.

"But thanks to Trading Standards, he's now behind bars."

13½ years for rogue roofer who killed golfer in chase

BY **STEPHANIE WAREHAM**

A ROGUE roofer who ran over and killed a mother of three on a golf course during a police chase has been jailed for 13 and a half years.

John McDonald, 52, admitted causing the death by dangerous driving of Suzanne Cherry, who was playing golf with her husband on April 11 last year.

She was looking for a ball near a stream when McDonald's van ploughed into her, causing catastrophic injuries.

Suzanne died in hospital four days later on the eve of her 63rd birthday.

As McDonald fled with his two passengers – his son Johnny, 23, and Brett Delaney, 35 – he stepped over Suzanne's body, Worcester crown court was told.

The trio had earlier caught the attention of the police as they followed an elderly customer to an ATM in Kingstanding, Birmingham.

Under the guise of a company called Approved Roofs Ltd, they were fleecing elderly people by carrying out unnecessary, shoddy roof works.

The police gave chase and in the next 12 minutes McDonald damaged at least five vehicles, reached speeds of 70mph in 30mph zones, drove on the wrong side of the road, mounted pavements and rammed a police car following it eight times.

Brett Delaney, centre, and Johnny McDonald, right, were in van that killed Suzanne, left

He then turned into Aston Wood Golf Club in Shenstone, Staffs, and was travelling at 41mph five seconds before the airbags were deployed.

Collision investigators said McDonald braked 4.5 seconds before the impact, with Suzanne coming into view five seconds before – making a collision inevitable. Johnny and Delaney were not held responsible for the collision but they and McDonald Snr admitted conspiracy to commit fraud in relation to the roofing works.

They had received tens of thousands of pounds from elderly victims.

Judge James Burbidge KC told them: "Those you sought out were easy targets because they were vulnerable and trusting individuals, as the elderly often are, and want to see the good in people – unlike you.

"John and Johnny, it is not clear what, if any, skills you had for that line of work. The evidence suggests none."

Judge Burbidge added: "Ms Cherry and her husband, two people who wholly abide by the law and had everything to look forward to together, were playing golf when you three, in pursuing your criminal ambitions to defraud elderly and vulnerable victims and having been spotted by police, sought to escape punishment."

Speaking to John, who wore jeans and a brown jacket, the judge added: "You killed a person and devastated many." He gave him a concurrent term of 48 months for conspiracy to commit fraud.

Johnny was jailed for 32 months and Delaney for 28 months.

John's lawyer Mark Gatley KC said his client was suffering nightmares about his actions and was in poor physical health. He added: "No one can really begin to comprehend the pain he has caused but it weighs very heavily upon him... He cannot understand why he acted this way."

Suzanne's husband Clint Harrison said "everyone loved her".

He told reporters afterwards: "You really don't want to know what I think about the sentence."

Yvonne dreamed of living room extension

Pensioner paid £14k for two breeze block walls

A GRAN blew her £14,000 life savings on a dream extension – but was left with two breeze block walls by a builder she paid up front.

Yvonne Elliott, 70, had saved for 10 years to add extra space to her living room in Leeds.

She planned to start the 20ft x 10ft extension this summer until a builder working at a neighbour's called round.

He quoted her last June and Yvonne said she'd think about it. But the man, who also lives in Leeds, then knocked with a contract and said he could complete the work in three weeks –

BY **CHARLIE FENTON**

and she agreed. Over the next two months he allegedly took her savings – including to settle what she believed was a £9,000 invoice for bought materials. But she says it turned out to just be a quotation.

Yvonne says the builder has now agreed to repay £13,500 – and he has made a start. But she said: "Instead of doing a good job he ruined my life.

"I worked hard for that money and I have nothing to show for it. I kept on giving him money even though there was no progress as I wanted the work completed. I was getting desperate. If I can make one person stop and think before going ahead with a cowboy that would be great."

Another builder, Graham Nash, was outraged when he heard what happened. He will give Yvonne her extension for the price of materials if they can raise the £4,500 through the GoFundMe website. Last night the total topped £4,000. He said: "It's about restoring a safe home and restoring faith." Yvonne's original builder did not want to comment.

DX1ST

BONES OF

Fossilised dinosaurs commanding millions of pounds at auction are being increasingly gobbled up by rich private collectors. But with museums losing out, scientists fear the secrets of scientifically important fossils are in danger of becoming lost forever

EXCLUSIVE

By **Dominic Bliss**

THEY call him Spike – and, despite dying 68 million years ago, he is more popular now than he has ever been. Spike is actually a fossilised dinosaur skeleton, and was recently auctioned at Christie's in London for almost £3.5million.

Dating from the late Cretaceous period, and discovered in the US state of South Dakota, Spike is a rare species of dinosaur called a caenagnathid, thought to have been covered in feathers.

He stands at around 6ft 6in high, a stunning specimen with long, powerful hind legs that would have propelled him along at almost 40mph – much faster than a tyrannosaurus rex. Armed with a sharp beak and fearsome claws, he would have been more than capable of defending himself. There's a theory that he might have vaguely resembled a modern-day ostrich or cassowary, only far more menacing and easily capable of gobbling up small animals.

Despite his colossal value to science, Spike was sold last month to an anonymous collector.

Make no bones about it, the global trade in dinosaur fossils is booming right now. In July 2024, a stegosaurus skeleton called Apex sold for a record £33.3m. Discovered in an area of Colorado called the Morrison Formation, this specimen is 150 million years old, comprising 254 fossilised bones and stands at 11ft tall, with a length of 27ft. The buyer was an American hedge fund manager called Kenneth C Griffin who has now lent Apex for a few years to the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

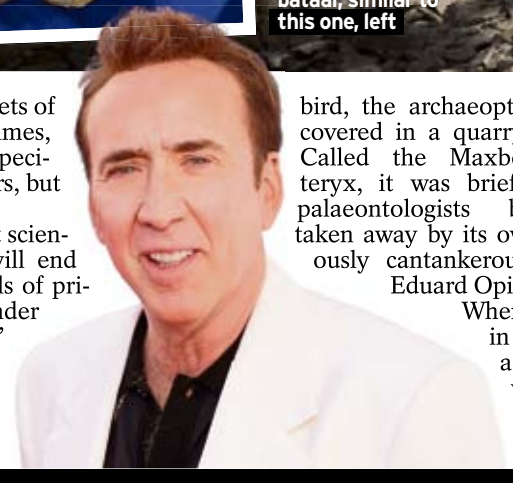
It is often tyrannosaurus rexes that command the highest prices. In 2020, a fossilised skeleton of one of these monsters, called Stan, sold in New York for £23.7m.

Other species prove popular, too, especially when their skulls or skeletons are near complete. Last year a rare juvenile ceratosaurus fetched £22.75m.

And in 2007, the Hollywood actor Nicholas Cage bought the skull of a Mongolian tyrannosaurus bataar for $270,000 (£140,000), although he was unaware it had been stolen and had to later return it. That same year, an allosaurus and a stegosaurus, displayed as if in combat, sold for $2.75m (approximately £2m).

Other lucrative sales have included a diplodocus called Misty, a hypacrosaurus called Freya, a thescelosaurus called Maximus, and a triceratops called Big John. (Dinosaur fossils are often given human nicknames.)

Nicholas Cage, below, bought the skull of a tyrannosaurus bataar, similar to this one, left



BUT these fossils are very much bones of contention. Yes, it's a highly lucrative trade for the fossil hunters who find them. However, those within the scientific community are outraged.

Whenever an important specimen ends up prettifying a wealthy person's living room, it deprives scientists of the chance to examine it – potentially forever.

Dr Susannah Maidment is principal researcher in fossil reptiles at the Natural History Museum in London.

She explains how museums like hers often struggle to compete with the buying power of rich private collectors.

"Most museums have extremely limited budgets with which to acquire new material," she says.

"Dinosaur fossils can sell for tens of millions of pounds, meaning that they are well outside the acquisition budgets of most institutions. Sometimes, museums might acquire specimens with the help of donors, but this is relatively rare."

Dr Maidment worries that scientifically important fossils will end up hidden away on the walls of private mansions instead of under the gaze of palaeontologists' microscopes.

And she has a point. In the 1950s a rare fossil of the world's first feathered bird, the archaeopteryx, was discovered in a quarry in Germany. Called the Maxberg archaeopteryx, it was briefly studied by palaeontologists before being taken away by its owner, a notoriously cantankerous chap called Eduard Opitsch.

When Opitsch died in 1991, his archaeopteryx was nowhere to be found.

Where did it end up? Was it lost or stolen? There was even a theory it had been buried in a coffin along with its owner.

Dr Maidment explains why it is such a tragedy when dinosaur fossils are lost to science. "A basic tenet of science is that it is repeatable: that is, another scientist must be able to come along and repeat your experiment to test your results," she says.

"Therefore, palaeontologists only work on fossil specimens that are in public collections where they will be held in perpetuity for the benefit of all.

"Specimens in private collections can be

CONTENTION

Spike was sold at Christie's in November

The dinosaurs at The Natural History Museum are world famous

sold, get lost, go missing, and access to them can be randomly denied. This means they might not be available for other scientists to examine and test results."

She points out that, unfortunately, some examples of dinosaur species are held only in private collections.

"Therefore, we know nothing about them at all," she adds. "They are lost to science."

Much of the problem stems from the fact there are few regulations governing the search for and trade in dinosaur fossils.

In the UK, for example, if someone was to discover a T-rex skeleton on their own land, there is nothing to stop them keeping it exclusively for themselves.

It is very different to the strict regulations concerning metal detectorists who unearth valuable treasures, for example.

Dr Maidment believes the law ought to be changed. She would welcome a scheme similar to the Treasure Act 1996, which forces amateur archaeologists and metal detectorists to report any treasure they find, offering it to museums at an independently officiated price.

'Specimens in private collections can be sold, get lost, go missing... they are lost to science'

"I envisage that public museums should be given first refusal to buy scientifically significant specimens for a reasonable price," she says.

"One that represented the effort the collector had gone to in order to find and excavate the fossil."

At the same time, she does not wish to discourage amateur collectors from going fossil hunting – an activity she herself enjoyed in her younger days.

"We can't be everywhere at once," she says of the palaeontology community. "Almost all scientifically significant dinosaur specimens found in the UK are found by amateur collectors who know the coastline much better than academic palaeontologists.

"If it wasn't for amateur enthusiasts, most vertebrate fossils would never be found."

One of the leading campaign groups against the commercial sale of dinosaur fossils is the Society of Vertebrate Paleonotology, a US-based global group of scientists, students and scholars.

In recent years they have tried to dissuade many auction houses from selling important fossils to private collectors.

When the stegosaurus known as Apex was sold, the society issued the following statement: "Museums today face increasing pressure in a fossil market distorted by private sales, collections and escalating prices.

"This undermines their mission to preserve Earth's history and limits access for researchers and the public alike."

SO why are ancient fossils so important to science? What relevance does an animal that lived millions of years ago have to modern-day science? Dr Maidment says it is all about biodiversity.

"Biodiversity is the variety of life on Earth," she says. "If we wish to understand how biodiversity might change as our climate changes, we need to look at times in the past when similar environmental changes have occurred and see how life responded.

"The past is the key to the future, and this is why palaeontology has never been more important than it is today."

Christie's auction house, which sold Spike, the rare caenagnathid, sympathises with this idea. Its head of science and natural history, James Hyslop, said before Spike went up for sale: "This skeleton isn't quite like anything we've seen before. Maybe – just maybe – this could be a new species."

Now he hopes Spike's new owner, whoever that is, will loan the specimen to a museum or at least put him on public display.

After all, a specimen this complete really ought to be seen by all of us.

30-SECOND CHALLENGE

JUST follow the instructions from left to right, starting with the number given to reach an answer at the end of the row. Set your own 30-second challenge. For the very young or arithmetically rusty, you have 30 seconds for the BEGINNER task. For a greater challenge, try BEGINNER and INTERMEDIATE in 30 seconds. True mental gymnasts should try INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED in 30 seconds together.

Today's answers can be found in the puzzles pullout

										YOUR ANSWERS
Beginner	77	-38	2/3 OF THIS	+38	÷4	REVERSE THE DIGITS	+17	÷6	+53	
Intermediate	145	4/5 OF THIS	+256	÷6	REVERSE THE DIGITS	INCREASE BY 50%	+375	÷3	-49	
Advanced	185	INCREASE BY 80%	+156	2/3 OF THIS	-81	9/35 OF THIS	x6	-186	÷4	

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13
EUROMILLIONS
6 10 18 44 47 2 10
THUNDERBALL
9 17 18 21 27 7

MONDAY, JANUARY 12
SET FOR LIFE 9 20 29 41 47 4

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10
LOTTERY 5 6 13 18 22 53 9
THUNDERBALL 23 29 31 38 39 5

THE HEALTH LOTTERY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13
2 19 36 37 50 26

MONDAY, JANUARY 12
6 9 15 35 49 21

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PHONE POLL RESULTS

We asked in our poll on Monday:
Should UK troops be sent to defend Greenland from Russia and China threat?

YES: 56%
NO: 44%

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SUDOKU

Fill in all the squares so that each row, each column, and each 3x3 square contain all the digits from 1 to 9

		5	6				3	
3	2				1	9		4
		9		3			5	
5	6	8	7	4		1		2
					8		4	
1		4		5	2	8		6
	8			2		7		9
		3	4				2	
	5		8		6			

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MORE PUZZLES – PULLOUT
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

8	3	2	7	6	1	9	5	4
7	5	4	9	8	3	6	1	2
6	1	9	2	5	4	7	3	8
9	7	3	8	4	6	1	2	5
2	8	1	3	7	5	4	6	9
4	6	5	1	9	2	3	8	7
5	9	7	6	1	8	2	4	3
1	2	8	4	3	7	5	9	6
3	4	6	5	2	9	8	7	1

Hello little one, it's so nice to see roo...

BY **ED CHATTERTON**

AN inquisitive joey pokes his head out of its mum's pouch for the first time at a UK zoo.

The endangered Goodfellow's tree kangaroo's welcome to the world was captured on camera last week.

Experts say his arrival at Chester Zoo marks a conservation milestone for one of the world's most threatened marsupials.

Keepers were able to get an earlier look at the little one – born the size of a jellybean – using a special "pouch cam" that allowed staff to identify it as male.

Matthew Lloyd, a tree kangaroo expert at the zoo, said: "Being able to carefully track this joey's development inside the pouch using tiny cameras wasn't possible only a few years ago.

"It's helped us learn crucial information about the early stages of life inside the pouch – knowledge that can now support, and hopefully speed up, our conservation breeding efforts globally."

Peek-a-boo... little joey takes first look outside pouch

Smoke rises from the ground in Jordan's footage, which gives a birds-eye view of the nightmare, right

Coal fire burns underground for six months

Locals fear for their health

BY **FILIPA GASPAR**

NEIGHBOURS fear for their health while a huge underground coal blaze continues to burn at the bottom of their gardens after six months.

Children have not been able to play outside since the fire was spotted in July, back gardens are covered in soot and locals have had enough.

The site of the blaze is thought to be a colliery spoil containing coal and iron ore, buried beneath the ground during steelworks in the 1800s.

Breathing

These fires are often caused by spontaneous combustion, and the fire service and council have been excavating the site in Shawhead, North Lanarkshire, to get to the seat of it – throwing up more dust.

Resident Kevin McAllister said: "There's a constant smell, a dust that falls on the houses and car.

"People are worried about the health issues. We've had fires spontaneously bursting out the back. We can constantly smell burning and hear crackling. Mohammed Salim said: "We've been told there will be no health problems but sometimes it gets very hard for me to breathe.

"People like me, with health issues, we've stopped going out."

Another neighbour said: "Its been horrific. Haven't been able to let my weans out to play in months. Everything is ruined."

Drone pilot Jordan Mclay filmed dramatic footage of smoke drifting from cracks in the earth.

He said: "The fumes irritated my asthma. It's a quality-of-life issue affecting homes, families and health."

The council said: "Air-quality monitoring remains in place and all readings show levels within safe limits.

"Our priority remains to safely extinguish the smouldering material and minimise disruption."

Mohammed has found it hard to breathe and won't venture far

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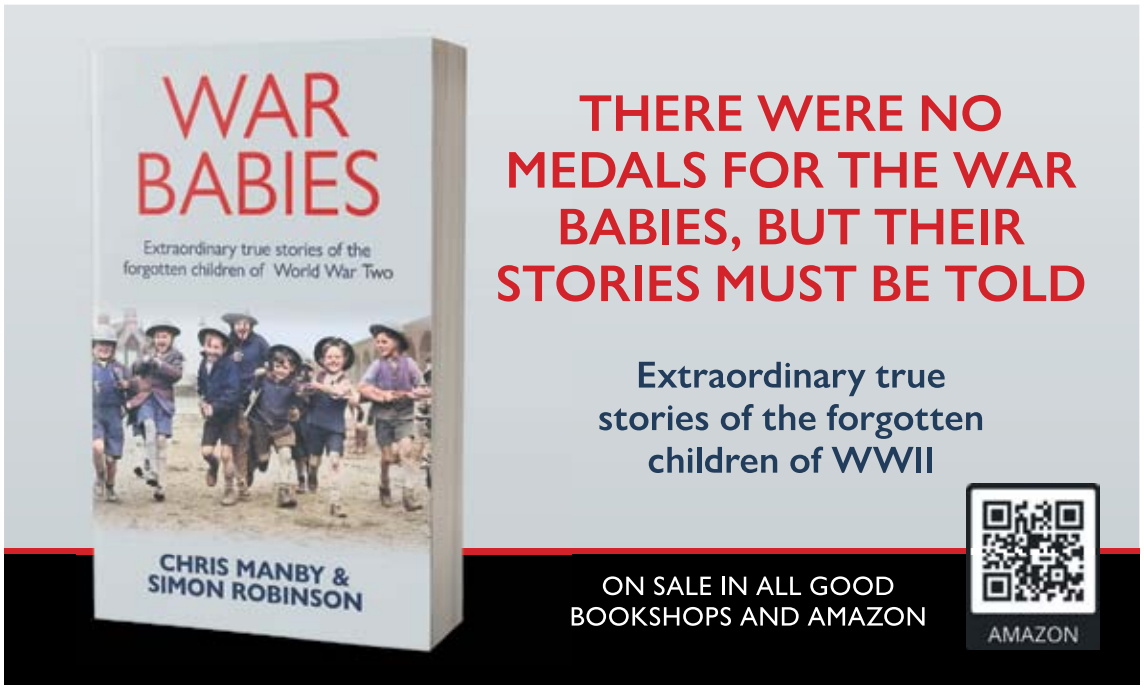
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- **SATURDAY** TRAVEL, GARDENING & FOOD
- **SUNDAY** TRAVEL, GARDENING & REVIEWS

YOUR MONEY

Edited by **HARVEY JONES**

COUGH UP *Chancellor Rachel Reeves is targeting landlords*

The roof falls in on rental retirements

Rachel Reeves's constant tax raids on landlords means many have questioned the wisdom of buy-to-lets and are abandoning the dream of owning a property to boost their pensions

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DEAL ME OUT
The figures no longer stack up for many of Britain's landlords

The days when people confidently said "my property is my pension" appear to be over, and possibly for good. That mantra rang loud during the long property boom, when Britons piled into buy-to-lets to generate rental income and ride relentless house price growth into retirement.

Those days have faded with private landlords hit by repeated tax raids, including reduced mortgage interest relief, a 3% stamp duty surcharge on second homes and incoming rules that make it harder to evict problem tenants.

Now they face another threat, as house prices stagnate and Chancellor Rachel Reeves lines up fresh property taxes, most notoriously a mansion tax floated in last November's Budget.

New research underlines the scale of the shift. Nearly 15% of London homeowners sold their property at a loss in 2025, a level described as "previously unthinkable" during the capital's boom years.

The figures, from estate agency Hamptons, highlight the risks of relying too heavily on bricks and mortar for retirement. And it isn't just high-value London homes feeling the strain.

Simon Bashorun, head of advice at fund manager Rathbones, said property is no longer the low-risk cornerstone of wealth planning: "The market's slowdown exposes three issues: concentration risk, lack of liquidity and a rising policy and tax burden."

Residential property is also fully exposed to inheritance tax on death, and Bashorun warned families may be forced to sell at the worst possible moment, and get less than they previously hoped, with sales and valuations volatile.

It isn't all bad news. Britain's chronic housing shortage means rents remain high. Average yields stand at 7.7% a year, ranging from a low of 6.3% in Greater London to 9.6% in the North East, where purchase prices are lower, according to buy-to-let lender Fleet Mortgages. Landlords are also adapting. Almost two thirds now plan to invest through limited companies rather than in their own name, Paragon research shows.

Rental profits are subject to corporation tax starting at 19%, rather than income tax of 40% or more for higher-rate taxpayers.

Companies can deduct 100% of mortgage interest and manage inheritance tax more efficiently by passing the business on to family members.

Property may still have a role to play in retirement planning, especially if prices recover as interest rates and mortgage costs fall. But it should form part of a balanced mix of investments, alongside ISAs and, crucially, pensions.

Time to file tax returns so you don't get a fine

ACT NOW
Don't leave it until the last minute

Edited by **HARVEY JONES**

IF YOU keep putting off your self-assessment tax return, don't delay any longer. The annual deadline on January 31 is fast approaching. Completing a return takes time, and mistakes or missed deadlines can land you with fines and penalties.

Alice Haine, personal finance analyst at Bestinvest by Evelyn Partners, said 5.85 million taxpayers still need to file their online return for 2024/25. "Leaving your return until the last minute puts you at risk of missing the deadline and receiving an instant £100 fine." Last year, one million people paid up.

However, not everyone needs to complete a tax return. If you haven't filed in recent years, you may not need to do so this year unless your financial circumstances have changed. That said, 1.6 million additional pensioners could be dragged into paying income tax over the next few years due to the frozen £12,570 personal allowance.

HMRC usually writes to anyone required to file. Pensioners pulled into paying tax because of the frozen allowance should receive a letter telling them to register for self-assessment. If they haven't received one, it doesn't mean they're exempt, so it's worth checking. HMRC also provides an online tool, "Do I need to send a self-assessment tax return?", which allows pensioners to enter details of income, state pension, savings, dividends, and other taxable sources. The tool will confirm if filing is required and can be found at gov.uk/check-if-you-need-tax-return.

'Pensioners pulled into paying tax should get a letter'

Even if the state pension is the main income, pensioners should check whether they also receive savings or investment income above £1,000, dividends outside of the tax-free ISA above £500, rental income from property, foreign income, or untaxed tips and commissions. Any of these may trigger a return. If unsure, contact HMRC via phone or online well before the deadline.

Haine also stressed the importance of claiming all available reliefs and allowances to minimise tax liabilities.

This is particularly relevant now, with almost two million more people being pushed into the 40% tax band as frozen thresholds fail to keep pace with pay rises. Reliefs can include pension contributions, charitable donations, or investment in schemes such as Venture Capital Trusts or Enterprise Investment Schemes.

First-time filers must have their Unique Taxpayer Reference number to register and should gather paperwork such as P60s, rental statements, pension records, charitable donation receipts, investment statements, and details of any capital gains or crypto sales. "Accuracy is crucial, as errors can trigger penalties," Haine said.

Finally, ensure you can afford to pay any tax owed, as outstanding tax must also be settled by January 31. Payments can be made via the HMRC app, online banking, cheque, or a one-off direct debit.

Filing on time and paying what's due is the only way for you to avoid fines. You should act now, rather than risk a costly scramble in the final days or hours.

TOUGH YEAR
Terry Smith's vehicle endured a rotten 2025

Smith's star fades as passive funds explode

The stock market had another strong year in 2025 but it wasn't a triumph for every investor. The UK's best-known fund manager, Terry Smith of Fundsmith Equity, had another tough time.

Smith is a throwback to the era when investors relied on star fund managers to beat the market year after year. The most famous was Neil Woodford, who turned a £10,000 investment into nearly £250,000 over 20 years. But his career collapsed in scandal, leaving investors nursing outsize losses.

Smith smashed the market for years but he's now come unstuck, although without any scandal attached.

His flagship vehicle Fundsmith Equity grew just 0.8% last year, against 12.8% on its benchmark and 21.5% for the FTSE 100. Even cash in the bank did five times better.

Laith Khalaf, head of investment analysis at AJ Bell, said: "There's no dressing it up, 2025 was a grisly year for Fundsmith Equity."

Fundsmith has underperformed for five years in a row, and investors are trickling away along with his reputation. Smith invests in a small portfolio of big companies, some of which have faltered. Khalaf said: "His concentrated approach means that when they go wrong, they really sting."

He's not the only star to struggle. "Active managers can't compete with passive index-tracking funds in an era when so much of the market return comes from the biggest stocks, notably US technology companies," Khalaf added.

Fundsmith may recover, but Smith no longer has the Midas touch. "No fund manager can spin straw into gold, and it's unhelpful to believe they can," Khalaf said. For most investors, the argument for passive funds looks stronger than ever. They won't beat the market, but nor will they underperform it. And they're cheap, leaving investors with more of their returns.

Christmas debt, the unwanted gift that just keeps on giving

Christmas memories may already be fading, but for millions of Britons the debts will linger far longer than they would like. January is the toughest month of the year for many families, as festive borrowing collides with rising household bills and the ongoing cost-of-living squeeze.

Four in 10 families don't financially recover from Christmas until at least February or March, with some still repaying festive costs as late as autumn, according to new research from Creditspring. Many households also face an agonising wait for payday, having been paid early in December, leaving budgets stretched to breaking point.

Creditspring's consumer finance expert Tamsin Powell said: "The decorations come down, but the repayments don't."

Christmas borrowing can cast a long shadow over the year ahead, with many families leaning on credit cards, Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL), overdrafts and loans just to get through. A quarter of households said an unexpected expense of less than £500 would force them to borrow or cut back sharply.

Rather than punishing budgets or unrealistic resolutions, Powell urges a practical reset. Here's her five-step plan.

Take a clear financial snapshot. Sit down and map out what you owe, what's due and your essential costs for the month ahead.

Build a budget. Create a budget that reflects reality, focuses on essentials and reduces reliance on credit.

Use January deals wisely. Sales can help if they cut future costs, such as switching energy, broadband or insurance.

Prepare for the unexpected. Even a small emergency buffer can make a real difference and reduce the need for credit or BNPL when surprises strike.

Ditch extreme rules. No-spend months often fail. Decide where spending is necessary and where it isn't. Feeling in control beats feeling deprived.

ENTERPRISE

Edited by **MAISHA FROST**

Pamper palace for precious pooches

FUR PLAY *K9 Anytime's luxury salon*

A dog daycare and hotel specialist is coming on leaps and bounds as it pampers its canine customers to perfection so they have the time of their lives. The pets' parents using K9 Anytime's premium services have never felt so reassured either, as their pooches enjoy indoor and outdoor play spaces and equipment. Relaxation rooms, a pantry stocked with Nutriment's healthy raw foods and luxury grooming salons where wellbeing leads the way all enrich their experience.

Founded by canine experts Tom Haynes and Luke Bird a decade ago in Higford, Shropshire, the small business, which has a team of 20 and serves a local market, is securing its best-in-show reputation with the opening of a second centre on a farm site at Upper Brockhurst.

Having cared for more than 3,000 dogs over the years, the duo's aim of "rethinking dogs so every life is better" came about, "because the industry standard was nowhere near what it could be", they explain.

"In a time when dogs aren't just pets but our friends and family, it occurred to us, why do we still let them sit alone for large portions of the day and put them in concrete cage kennels, creating anxiety when we go away?

"We wanted to create a service that makes the most out of every moment. Our homely environment and packed schedules prevent boredom and loneliness." Day packages, costing around £32.50, are tailored to each dog's personality, with an older pug, for example, probably preferring more time curled up on a sofa.

The business's holistic approach to care intertwines every aspect, so dogs become or remain well rounded and balanced.

Many owners routinely drop off their pets three days a week. For boarding stays, it's all about "active days and quiet nights", says Bird.

> ***"Our set-up and packed schedules prevent loneliness"***

The raw and natural food menus – the company has an in-house nutritionist – counter the ultra processed pet food pitfalls which can damage dogs' health and the firm's award-winning grooming services are supported by health checks.

Luxury touches such as shock absorbent flooring, non-slip marble replacing stainless steel in the grooming salons and soft flow shower heads creating a calm cleanse, have helped drive growth.

Self-funded investment now totals more than £1million and, as Haynes and Bird aim for a £500,000 turnover in 2027/28, they marked their successful decade recently by putting in £250,000 funding for the second hub.

Plans for a third location are also advancing and partnerships with a vet and possibly an insurer are being considered. "We're also looking to open our own veterinary department," says Haynes.

● *k9anytime.com*

HANDS ON *Luke, far right, and team*

Sex, Drugs and Walking Sticks
by Dr Miriam Stoppard
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Dr Miriam Stoppard

Best savings, mortgages and personal finance deals

Source: Moneyfactscompare.co.uk

Rates correct at 8:00am: 13th January 2026

EASY ACCESS

Provider	Account	Term or Notice	Min	AER	Interest Paid
cahoot	Sunny Day Saver (5)	None	£1	5.00%	Yearly
Chase	Chase Saver Boosted	None	£1	4.50% **A**	Monthly
Mansfield BS	Triple Access Saver (1st)	None	£1	4.25% **A**	Yearly
Manchester BS	Rainy Day Saver	None	£1	4.25%	Yearly

SHORT TERM FIXED RATES

Provider	Account	Term or Notice	Min	AER	Interest Paid
Marcus by Goldman Sachs®	Fixed Rate Saver	1 Yr Bnd	£1	4.55% **F**	On maturity
Union Bank of India (UK) Ltd	Fixed Rate Deposit	1 Yr Bnd	£1,000	4.33% **F**	On maturity
Union Bank of India (UK) Ltd	Union Premier Bond	1 Yr Bnd	£5,000	4.33% **F**	On maturity
OakNorth	Fixed Term Savings	12 Mth Bnd	£1	4.26% **F**	On maturity

LONG TERM FIXED RATES

Provider	Account	Term or Notice	Min	AER	Interest Paid
Hampshire Trust Bank	Online Fixed Saver (44)	5 Yr Bnd	£1	4.31% **F**	Yearly
Chetwood Bank	Fixed Rate Savings	5 Yr Bnd	£1,000	4.30% **F**	Yearly
UBL UK	Fixed Term Deposit	4 Yr Bnd	£2,000	4.26% **F**	Yearly
UBL UK	Fixed Term Deposit	5 Yr Bnd	£2,000	4.26% **F**	Yearly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS

Provider	Account	Term or Notice	Min	AER	Interest Paid
Earl Shilton BS	180 Day Notice Online	180 Day	£5,000	4.50%	Yearly
Oxbury Bank	Base Rate Tracker (2)	180 Day	£1,000	4.38%	Monthly
Oxbury Bank	Tracker Premium 2	120 Day	£10,000	4.34%	Monthly
GB Bank	120 Day Notice 3	120 Day	£1,000	4.33%	Yearly

VARIABLE ISAs

Provider	Account	Term or Notice	Min	AER	Interest Paid
Plum	Plum Cash ISA	None	£1	4.32% **A**	Monthly
Moneybox	Moneybox Cash ISA	None	£500	4.30% **A**	Monthly
Atom Bank	Easy Access Cash ISA	None	£1	4.25%	Monthly
Aldermore	ISA Single Access (7)	None	£100	4.15%	Yearly

FIRST TIME BUYERS

Provider	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redemption Charge
Nationwide BS	4.68%	for 2 years	95%	Nil	1st 2 yrs
HSBC	4.79%	to 28.2.28	95%	Nil	To 28.2.28
Leek Buiding Society	4.56%	to 31.3.31	95%	£995	To 31.3.31
HSBC	4.72%	to 28.2.31	95%	Nil	To 28.2.31

SHORT TERM FIXED RATES

Provider	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redemption Charge
Santander	3.55%	to 2.4.28	60%	£999	To 2.4.28
HSBC	4.24%	to 28.2.28	90%	Nil	To 28.2.28
Santander	3.69%	to 2.4.29	75%	£999	To 2.4.29
Furness BS	4.24%	for 3 years	90%	£999	1st 3 yrs

LONG TERM FIXED RATES

Provider	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redemption Charge
first direct	3.75%	for 5 years	60%	£490	1st 5 yrs
first direct	3.84%	for 5 years	75%	£490	1st 5 yrs
HSBC	4.19%	to 28.2.31	90%	£999	To 28.2.31
Nationwide BS	4.64%	for 10 years	80%	£999	1st 10 yrs

DISCOUNTED VARIABLE RATES

Provider	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redemption Charge
Furness BS	4.14%	for 2 years	80%	£999	1st 2 yrs
Furness BS	4.54%	for 2 years	90%	£999	1st 2 yrs
Newbury BS	4.14%	for 3 years	75%	£850	1st 3 yrs
Earl Shilton BS	5.79%	for 5 years	90%	£724	1st 5 yrs

REMORTGAGES

Provider	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redemption Charge
first direct	3.70%**F**	for 2 years	60%	£490	1st 2 yrs
Furness BS	3.90%**F**	for 2 years	80%	£999	1st 2 yrs
HSBC	3.84%**F**	to 28.2.31	75%	£999	To 28.2.31
Nationwide BS	4.05%**F**	for 5 years	85%	£999	1st 5 yrs

BALANCE TRANSFER CREDIT CARDS

Provider	Product Name	0% Period	Fee	APR
TSB	Plat Balance Transfer MC	38 mths	3.49%	24.9%
Barclaycard	Plat Balance Transfer V	36 mths	3.45%	24.9%
Tesco Bank	Clubcard CC BT MC	36 mths	3.45%	24.9%
Virgin Money	Balance Transfer CC MC	35 mths	2.95%	24.9%

PURCHASE CREDIT CARDS

Provider	Product Name	0% Period	APR
Lloyds Bank	Plat 0% Purch & BT CC Visa	25 mths	24.9%
M&S Bank	Purchase Plus Offer MC	25 mths	24.9%
TSB	Platinum Purchase Card MC	25 mths	24.9%
Barclaycard	Plat 21 Mth BT 24 Mth Pur V	24 mths	24.9%

PERSONAL LOANS - BASED ON £10,000 OVER 5 YEARS

Provider	APR	Monthly Repayment	Total Amount Repayable
TSB	5.6%	£190.83	£11,449.80
Novuna Personal Finance	5.7%	£191.27	£11,476.20
M&S Bank	5.7%	£191.27	£11,476.20
Santander	5.9%	£192.15	£11,529.00

CURRENT ACCOUNTS WITH CREDIT INTEREST OR REWARD

Provider	Account	AER or Amount Paid
TSB	Spend & Save Plus	£5 pm
Nationwide BS	FlexDirect	5.00% **A**
LHV Bank	LHV Current Account	3.75%
Kroo Bank Ltd	Current Account	2.65%

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A = Introductory rate for a limited period. **D** = Discounted variable rate. **F** = Fixed rate. **V** = Variable rate.

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Visit Moneyfactscompare.co.uk for full details.

EXPRESS UK PROPERTY ON THE HOME FRONT

Edited by **DEBORAH STONE**

MAGIC way to sell new homes

New year, new you? House-building company Hill has come up with a clever wheeze for encouraging buyers to reserve a new home at seven of its new developments this month: AI-powered fitness mirrors. It is giving away MAGIC Mirrors – full-length, wall-mounted mirrors programmed to offer personal classes in yoga, cardio, dance and HIIT in the privacy of your bedroom – although you have to reserve your new home by January 31.

It's an unusual incentive – free carpets or stamp duty contributions are the norm – but Hill says the offer is part of its drive to enhance lifestyles as well as building homes.

Among the seven Hill developments offering free MAGIC Mirrors is Marleigh Park, in Cambridge, and Dagenham Green – a major regeneration development on land once home to Ford Motor Company's east London car factory. Hill is one of several developers building 3,500 homes at Dagenham, which has 10 acres of open space including a five-acre landscaped central park. This will have wildflower meadows and a boardwalk around a pond and wetlands. It currently has one, two and three-bedroom apartments available from £299,950 to £515,000 (0203 906 1953; dagenhamgreen.co.uk).

Hill is also working in partnership with Peabody to provide shared ownership homes from £81,000 – 30% of the £270,000 full price (0203 868 2851; peabodynewhomes.co.uk).

The property market's recent slowdown means more sales incentives on new-build homes are expected around the UK between the end of the Boxing Day "bounce" and the start of the spring selling season.

Depending on the developer, these include low deposit schemes, deposit contributions and estate agent fees paid, but there are also national schemes available. It's worth looking for developers offering Deposit Unlock, which makes it easier to get a 95% mortgage; First Homes, a 30-50% discount for eligible first time buyers; Help To Buy Wales, an equity loan scheme backed by the Welsh Government, and Great Start, a 20% equity loan scheme organised by developers.

TIME TO REFLECT
Hill's high-tech mirrors and, inset, the developer's Dagenham Green scheme

Plateauing prices may also help buyers, although not if they have a home to sell in London, where prices have been falling faster than anywhere else in the past year.

Sarah Walsh, head of new homes at estate agency Jackson-Stops, says this is expected to continue, with new-build prices reflecting the downturn. "What is clear is that pricing needs adjusting in the current market for new developments within the London commuter belt and the further reaches of the South East," she adds. "I expect realignment of pricing and buyer budgets unless we see support from the Government in the Spring Statement in the form of an incentive such as stamp duty cuts."

But it's better news for homeowners in the North. Analysis by estate agents Hamptons shows the number of North East owners selling for less than they paid was down to 13.9% from 29.9% in 2019, while Nationwide's December 2025 house price report named the North West as the top-performing region.

Reader Offer in partnership with Yimbly.com

PLAN AHEAD FOR PLANTING

The early months of the new year are ideal for getting organised and preparing a garden space before the growing season begins. Buying now allows time to plan ahead, and this 3.5 x 2m polytunnel greenhouse provides a practical place to start. The generous interior suits vegetables, flowers and greenery, with space to add shelving for clear organisation. Built with a steel frame and reinforced with metal rods, it offers a strong standing structure. Guy ropes and ground stakes are included to secure it firmly to the ground. Mesh windows allow airflow to circulate, while the large roll up door supports easy access for regular checks and care. Made from steel and polyethylene, it is designed for consistent outdoor use.

- Made from: Steel, polyethylene
- Dimensions: H200 x W350 x D200cm
- Assembly: Self-assembly required

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TODAY'S TV ONES TO WATCH

by **MIKE WARD** *TV critic*

Pick of the day
HOW TO KEEP YOUR BRAIN YOUNG, 5, 7PM

ONE FOOT IN THE GRAVE, BBC2, 10PM

PARKING apps, QR codes, unexpected item in the bagging area, sat-navs, smart meters, facial recognition, artisan bakers, artisan beers, artisan anything, things going "viral", street food, staycations, shops that won't take cash, airline passengers who clap the pilot, electric scooters, living your best life, please rate your delivery, your call is important to us...

Yes, whenever I watch an old episode of this show (this one is from 1990), I think of all the stuff a modern-day Victor Meldrew would be driven nuts by.

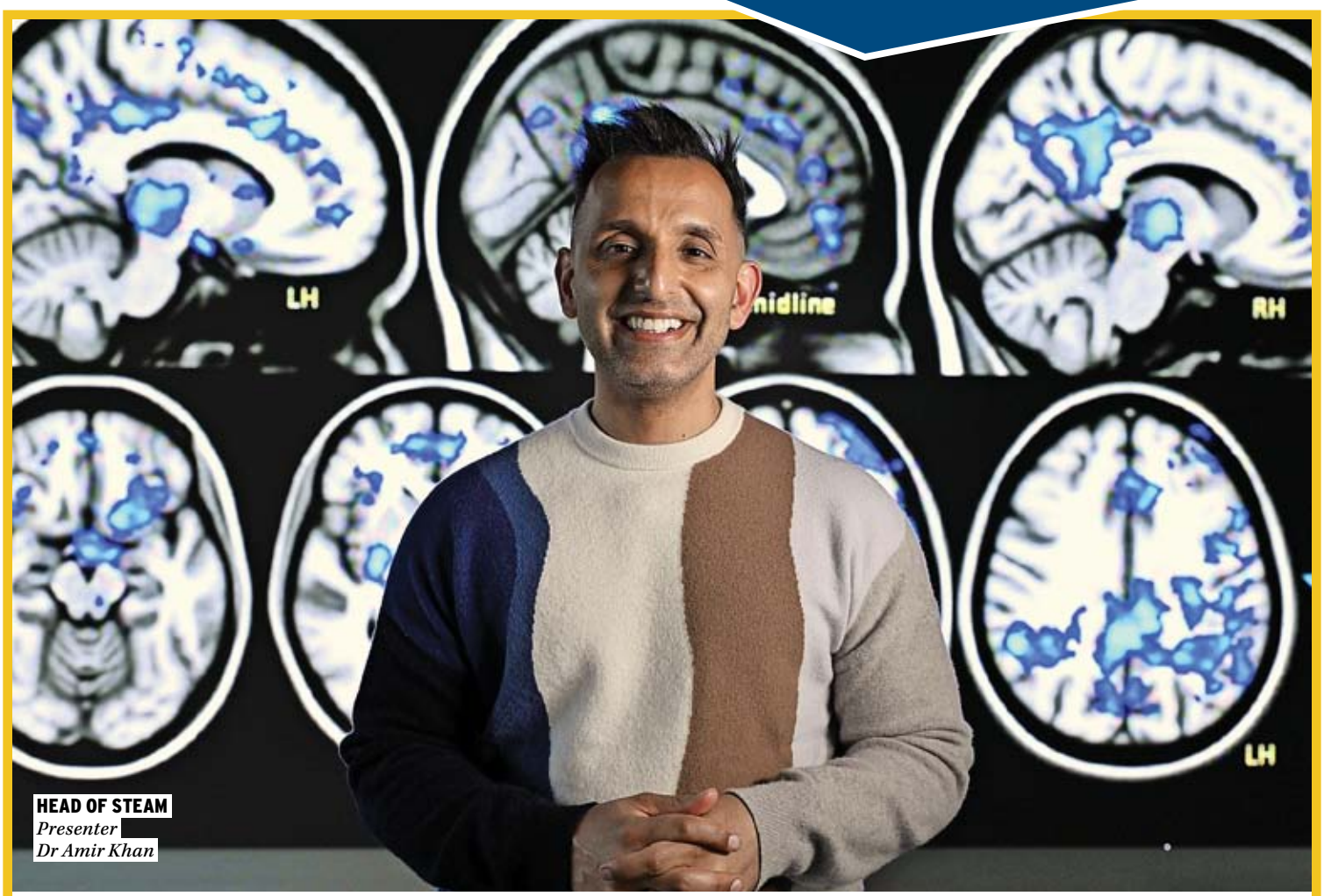
If they're looking for someone to play him, they know where to find me.

DIGGING FOR BRITAIN BBC2, 9PM

AT AN archaeological site in Norfolk, the diggers can barely contain their excitement. They've unearthed an Iron Age artefact that appears to be a carnyx, an extraordinary and very rare musical instrument.

Not surprisingly, Professor Alice Roberts, this programme's presenter, is desperate to hear what the instrument sounds like when played. So a local musician kindly comes along to demonstrate. And the result? Well, can you imagine a blend of an oboe and a tenor saxophone? Good for you, because this thing sounds like neither. It sounds like an elephant falling down a well.

Personally, I'd re-bury it.



HEAD OF STEAM
Presenter
Dr Amir Khan

THINK TANK'S NEWEST BRAINWAVE

ACCORDING to Dr Amir Khan, the chap who hosts this show, the human brain is "the most complex structure in the whole universe". Call me pedantic, but how can he possibly know? Last time I checked, the universe was, according to a scientist I think I saw quoted on Wikipedia, a blinking enormous place, and I'm pretty sure no one has yet explored it all, apart from maybe Michael Palin.

Also, doesn't a brain's complexity depend on whose brain we're actually talking about? One thing I've noticed, just going about my everyday business, is there are some right thickies about. Surely Dr Khan must know this. Has he never watched Celebrity Mastermind? But, OK, I take the general point; the human brain – I guess even the brain of a dimwit – is an amazing thing. It consumes a fifth of my daily calorie intake, yet makes up just 2% of my body weight (although, again, wouldn't that percentage fluctuate, depending on how fat I'd allowed myself to get?).

The snag, we're told, is that this brain of ours is under increasing strain, and for several reasons. And what upsets it the most? Dr Khan says it's poor diet, lack of exercise, addictive habits, stress and The One Show, although admittedly I made that last one up.

But can he fix it? Yes, he can. Which is good news, particularly for this programme's three volunteers, who've agreed to take part in a two-week experiment, designed to address their various brain-related concerns. One of them is worried about the quality of food she's eating. ("Well, stop eating it, then," would be my own advice). Another fears he's spending too long on his mobile phone. ("Well, stop spending so long on your mobile phone, then, duh..." I might suggest).

One person with whom I do sympathise is Bron, just turned 60, who's worried her memory is starting to fail her. The challenge Bron undertakes is learning the piano from scratch. Why? Because taking up a musical instrument can apparently "drive neuroplasticity". Neuroplasticity definitely sounds like a good thing to drive, doesn't it?

Having said that, I've spent years learning the triangle, and I still can't play a single tune.

BEST FILM

28 DAYS LATER, BBC3, 9.40PM

Danny Boyle's reinvention of the zombie genre sees Jim (Cillian Murphy) wakes from a coma to find the world in the grip of a mystery disease.

BEST SOAP

CORONATION STREET, ITV1, 8.30PM

Shona's concerned to notice bruises on Jodie's wrist and alarmed when her sister reveals she was trying to escape an abusive relationship.

BEST DRAMA

GRANTCHESTER, ITV1, 9PM

Alphy's plans for a romantic evening in with Meg are disrupted by various surprise guests, who end up re-enacting a murder at a brothel.

BEST COMEDY

CAN YOU KEEP A SECRET?, BBC1, 9.30PM

Debbie is so determined to stop the truth coming out that she bans Harry from telling Neha. Starring Dawn French and Mark Heap.

TODAY'S PREVIEWS ARE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

FILM RATINGS

★★★★★ BRILLIANT
★★★★ VERY GOOD
★★★ GOOD
★★ AVERAGE
★ BAD

(R) REPEAT

ALL PROGRAMMES ARE LISTED IN GREENWICH MEAN TIME (GMT).

BBC One

6.00am Breakfast News headlines.
9.30 Morning Live Magazine.
10.45 Rip Off Britain
11.30 Homes Under the Hammer With properties in Ayrshire, Wetherby and Windsor. (R)
12.15pm Bargain Hunt (R)
1.00 BBC News at One; Weather
2.00 Lost and Found in the Lakes The detectorists try to find a ring lost 60 years ago.
2.30 Animal Park The pressure is on for the construction of the hippo enclosure.
3.00 I Escaped to the Country A couple who moved to Spain and have never looked back. (R)
3.45 Garden Rescue Chris Hull and Charlie Dimmock transform a garden in Swindon. Last in series.
4.30 The Travelling Auctioneers Lauren Wood and James Broad help a woman clear out her 300-year-old farmhouse.
5.15 Pointless Quiz show.
6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather
6.30 Regional News; Weather
6.55 Party Political Broadcast By the Labour Party. (R)

BBC Two

6.00am The Travelling Auctioneers Briony Harford and Robin Johnson help a couple raise money for retirement. (R)
6.45 Bargain Hunt A compilation of weather-themed highlights. (R)
7.30 Sign Zone: Rick Stein's Australia (R)
8.30 Sign Zone: See Hear Scott Garthwaite talks to Tasha Stones and Jeff McWhinney.
9.00 BBC News Headlines.
11.15 Politics Live Political news.
1.00pm *LIVE* **Snooker: The Masters** Judd Trump v Ding Junhui. Coverage of the seventh first-round match, played over the best of 11 frames at Alexandra Palace.
5.15 Flog It! Searching for valuable collectibles at Leicester's De Montfort Hall. (R)
6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games With Adam Buxton, Hammed Animashaun, Lisa Snowdon and Lorna Watson.
6.30 Robson Green's Weekend Escapes Robson joins up with Sheli McCoy, AKA Gladiator Sabre, to explore Fife.

ITV1

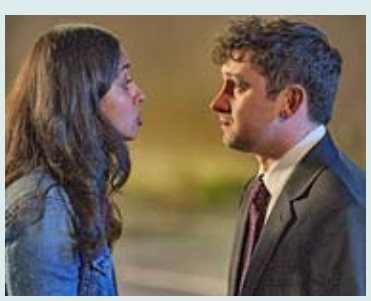
6.00am Good Morning Britain A lively mix of news, current affairs and lifestyle features.
9.30 Lorraine Entertainment and the latest fashion news.
10.00 This Morning Topical daily magazine, featuring a mix of celebrity chat, showbusiness news, advice and discussion. Including Local Weather.
12.30pm Loose Women Celebrity interviews and topical debate.
1.30 ITV News; Weather
1.55 Regional News; Weather
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal David Dickinson and his dealers are in Burton-on-Trent.
3.00 Time Is Money Quiz show, hosted by Sara Davies.
3.59 Regional Weather
4.00 Deal or No Deal Brogan tries to open the 22 red boxes in the right order.
5.00 The Chase Belal, Joyce, Paul and Rhiannan take part.
6.00 Regional News; Weather
6.25 Party Political Broadcast By the Labour Party.
6.30 ITV Evening News A round-up of the headlines; Weather

Channel 4

6.25am Cheers Triple bill. (R)
7.50 Everybody Loves Raymond Triple bill of the comedy. (R)
9.10 Frasier Four episodes. (R)
11.10 American Pickers (R)
12.05pm Channel 4 News
12.10 Car S.O.S The duo pick up a Ferguson TE20 tractor. (R)
1.10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R)
2.10 Countdown Mark Durden-Smith is in Dictionary Corner.
3.00 A Place in the Sun Ben Hillman helps Louise find a home on the Costa del Sol. (R)
4.00 A New Life in the Sun Renovations are rapid at Ian's new venture in France, but can he finish his B&B on time?
5.00 Junior Bake Off On Bread Day, Liam Charles sets a Technical challenge inspired by Halloween, and the bakers create their inner animal for the bread Showstopper.
6.00 A Place in the Sun Ben Hillman helps couple Polly and Andrew find their dream holiday home for retirement in Valencia, Spain with a budget of £250,000.

5

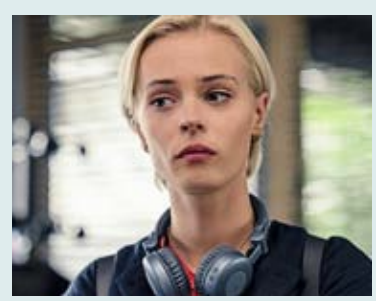
6.00am Milkshake! Children's TV.
9.15 Jeremy Vine Discussion.
11.30 Storm & Alexis Debate.
12.45pm 5 News at Lunchtime
12.50 Matt Allwright Debate.
2.00 Vanessa Discussions on relationships, parenting, gossip, fashion and more.
3.00 The Madame Blanc Mysteries Jean takes centre stage to uncover a deadly family drama when tragedy strikes twice in Sainte Victoire. Drama, starring Sally Lindsay and Steve Edge. (R)
4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun Ant returns to the Costa Blanca to surprise Rosemary on her 96th birthday, showing that friendship and community matter most.
5.00 5 News at 5 Headlines.
6.00 The Travel Show: How to Have a Great Holiday Kym Marsh and Richard Arnold explore exciting holiday destinations, with reports from famous faces alongside advice from travel experts, including Simon Calder; 5 News Update



9.30pm, CAN YOU KEEP...?: Mandip Gill and Craig Roberts

9pm, DIGGING FOR BRITAIN: Rosanna Price and Alice Roberts

8pm, EMMERDALE: Laurel and Marlon



9pm, PATIENCE: Ella Maisy Purvis

8pm, CASUALTY 24/7...: Clare Robinson

7

7.00 The One Show With Clara Amfo and Vernon Kay.
7.30 EastEnders Patrick invites Jasmine to stay at No.20, but privately voices his concerns about her violent streak to Yolande, and Gina gives romantic advice to Penny.

7.00 *LIVE* **Snooker: The Masters** Neil Robertson v Chris Wakelin. Coverage of the final first-round match at Alexandra Palace in London, played over the best of 11 frames. Robertson won this title in 2012 and 2022, while Wakelin, who was a late replacement for Ronnie O'Sullivan, lost at this stage last year to Luca Brecel. Hazel Irvine presents, with commentary and analysis from Steve Davis, Ken Doherty, Stephen Hendry, John Parrott and John Virgo. Coverage continues on BBC4.

7.30 Millionaire Hot Seat Jeremy Clarkson hosts the quiz where each episode sees six hopefuls compete for a cash prize. However, only one player can take their place in the Hot Seat at a time and answer questions to work their way up the Ladder.

7.00 Channel 4 News A round-up of all the latest headlines, in-depth interviews and analysis of political developments and current affairs. Plus, the day's leading sports stories and up-to-the-minute weather reports.

7.00 How to Keep Your Brain Young Dr Amir Khan explores whether boosting brain power is possible, with cutting-edge science and lifestyle changes. Amir also looks at the work being undertaken to understand the brain; 5 News

8

8.00 The Traitors Breakfast dials up the pressure and brings fresh allegations to the table. The challenge forces the players to put their trust into one another and suspicions continue to rise at the round table.

8.00 Emmerdale Evidence is found and an arrest is made, while Laurel is struggling.
8.30 Coronation Street The discovery of a pregnancy test kit leaves Megan with some explaining to do, and David introduces Jodie to the Platts.

8.00 Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer help Karol and Richard decide whether to renovate or sell their tired and impractical three-bedroom bungalow that they bought in 2022.

8.00 Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts The hospital moves to a new patient and porter tracking system, an eight-month-old is struggling to breathe, and a women comes in with a badly broken wrist.

9

9.05 The Traitors: Uncloaked Ed Gamble and his guests Clare Balding and series one faithful Maddy discuss recent developments in the castle.
9.30 Can You Keep a Secret? Harry tries to tell Neha a secret. With Dawn French.

9.00 Digging for Britain Featuring two rare finds from an Iron Age hoard. There is also an Iron Age site perched on the very edge of the White Cliffs of Dover, and the earliest example of an artist's signature from Roman Britain.

9.00 Grantchester Alphy's attempts to cook a romantic dinner are interrupted when the Reverend Lane, the vicar who tried to replace him, arrives unannounced at the vicarage. Detective drama, starring Robson Green.

9.00 Patience A lawyer is shot dead in a packed boardroom but no one saw the killer. A dead magpie at the scene leads Patience and Frankie into a magical tangle of lies and leads them to uncovering a notorious thief and a darker truth.

9.00 Surgeons: A Matter of Life or Death Surgeons attempt to remove a satsuma-sized tumour sitting deep between the two sides of a patient's brain, and a gigantic breast tumour to give a woman her best chance of survival.

10

10.00 BBC News at Ten
10.30 Regional News; Weather
10.40 *FILM* **The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1** (2014, 12) Katniss Everdeen is brought to a secretive underground society following the destruction of the televised deathmatch. She becomes the figurehead of a revolution against the despotic Panem regime, while her friend Peeta remains a captive of its tyrannical president. Third part of the dystopian drama, with Jennifer Lawrence. ★★★★

10.00 One Foot in the Grave Margaret tries to take Victor's mind off his depressing situation by encouraging him to attend a fitness class and read a book on how to cope with old age. (R)
10.30 Newsnight; Weather

10.00 ITV News at Ten The major stories of the day; Weather
10.30 Regional News; Weather
10.45 *NEW* **Peston** Political magazine show hosted by Robert Peston, featuring major interviews with MPs, topical guests and cultural figures.

10.00 Celebrity Gogglebox Stars including Vicki Pattison, Pete Wicks, Clare Balding, Alice Arnold, Denise van Outen, Johnny Vaughan, Jordan Banjo and Perri Kiely give their thoughts on Casualty, Clarkson's Farm, and Heretic.

10.30 Ambulance: Code Red Following specialist paramedic and doctor teams, focusing on life-threatening emergencies like cardiac arrests and major accidents, using advanced techniques often requiring immediate intervention. (R)

11

11.00 The Million Pound Shaman Scam Tim Rayment's investigation unearths some shocking revelations about Juliette D'Souza as her penniless and distraught victims fight to bring this dangerous fraudster to justice. (R)

11.40 Millionaire Hot Seat Jeremy Clarkson hosts the quiz where each episode sees six hopefuls compete for a cash prize. Only one player can take their place in the Hot Seat at a time and answer questions to work their way up the Ladder. (R)

11.00 The Murder of Laci Peterson Double bill. The prosecution seek the death penalty as the trial of State v Scott Peterson begins; Amber Frey's testimony and recordings give the prosecution new momentum.

11.30 Skin A&E Dr Natalia Spierings needs help from a colleague after losing the location of a lipoma in a woman's abdomen. Dr Emma McMullen tackles a very visible cyst on man's face and Dr Dev Shah contends with a mystery lump. (R)

12 MIDNIGHT

12.30am The Weakest Link. Dermot O'Leary, Charlene White, Lauren Layfield, Anthony Ogogo, Joe Baggs, Mark Heyes, Mhairi Black and Zeze Millz compete to be the strongest link and win for their chosen charity. (R) **1.15** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.20-6.00am** BBC News

12.00m't Snooker: The Masters – Extra **2.00** Sign Zone: See Hear. Scott Garthwaite talks to Tasha Stones and Jeff McWhinney. (R) **2.30** Sign Zone: Mystery Road: Origin (R) **3.20** Sign Zone: Waiting for the Out (R) **4.10** Sign Zone: Inside the Factory (R) **5.10-6.00am** This Is BBC Two

12.05am Shop on TV (R) **3.00** Inside M&S at New Year. A behind-the-scenes look at M&S Food as they develop a delicious, innovative health range to keep up with the trends of the new year. (R) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00am** Deal or No Deal. Brogan tries to open the 22 red boxes in the right order. (R)

1.15 In the Footsteps of Killers. The 1996 murder of Deborah Wood. (R) **2.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) **3.00** Know Your S**t: Inside Our Guts (R) **3.50** Sunday Brunch Best Bits **3.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (R) **4.50** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It (R) **5.45-6.25am** Countdown (R)

12.30am Car Pound Cops (R) **1.00** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.00** World's Most Scenic Railway Journeys (R) **3.50** Susan Calman's Grand Week by the Sea (R) **4.35** The Wonderful World of Chocolate (R) **5.25** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom (R) **5.45-6.00am** Milo (R)

ITV2 FREEVIEW 6

6.00am CITV **7.30** Celebrity Dinner Date **8.30** Olivia Meets Her Match **9.25** The Only Way Is Essex **10.25** The Real Housewives of Miami **11.20** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills **12.15pm** Dinner Date **1.15** Celebrity Dinner Date **2.15** The Only Way Is Essex **3.10** The Real Housewives of Orange County **4.05** The Real Housewives of Miami **5.00** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills

6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase

7.00 Deal or No Deal Contestant Kirk tries to beat the Banker.

8.00 The Real Housewives of Orange County The ladies reconvene for a special murder mystery-themed party.

9.00 Love Island: All Stars

10.05 Grosse Pointe Garden Society

11.05 Family Guy Double bill.

12.05am American Dad!. Animation. **1.05** Bob's Burgers **1.35** Olivia Attwood's Bad Boyfriends **2.35** Unwind with ITV **3.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

ITVQuiz FREEVIEW 28

9.00am Deal or No Deal **10.00** Tipping Point **1.00pm** Lingo **2.00** Tenable **3.00** In with a Shout **4.00** Riddiculous **5.00** Deal or No Deal. Stephen Mulhern hosts as another contestant tries to open the 22 red boxes in the right order.

6.00 Lingo Triple bill. Rebecca and Rachel, Kaz and Rich, and Deb and Emily take part; Hinisha and Darshika, Brian and Paul, and Tasha and Leanne take part; taking part are couple Kate and Stu from Worcestershire, and two teams from Wiltshire in the form of couple Robbie and Aimee, and Debs and her son Ben.

9.00 Alan Carr's Epic Gameshow – Celebrity Special The comedian hosts an all-star version of Bullseye, with David Seaman, Angela Griffin and Chris Kamara answering the questions and their professional partners throwing the darts.

10.00 Tipping Point Triple bill.

12.50am Tenable **1.45** Unwind with ITV **2.00-9.00am** Teleshopping

BBC3 FREEVIEW 23

7.00pm The Catch Up The day's news.

7.05 SpongeBob SquarePants

7.30 Top Gear: Burma Special Double bill. Part one of two. The presenters drive lorries through the Southeast Asian country; part two of two. The three presenters venture into a state riven by civil war.

9.40 FILM **28 Days Later** (2002, 18) Survivors band together after Britain is devastated by a virus that leaves victims consumed with homicidal rage. Danny Boyle's horror, starring Cillian Murphy, Naomie Harris, Brendan Gleeson and Christopher Eccleston. ★★★★

11.25 Missing in Paradise: Searching for Sarm Double bill.

12.25am Missing in Paradise: Searching for Sarm **12.55** Stacey Dooley: Meet the Shoplifters **1.40-3.55am** The Beauty Queen & the Catfish: triple bill

BBC4 FREEVIEW 9

7.00pm Hidden Wales: Last Chance to Save Will Millard explores some of Wales's historic buildings.

8.00 The Cambridgeshire Crucifixion The story of the discovery of evidence of a Roman crucifixion in Cambridgeshire.

9.00 LIVE **Snooker: The Masters** Neil Robertson v Chris Wakelin. Xoverage of the final first-round match at Alexandra Palace, played over the best of 11 frames.

10.00 Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy Double bill. Smiley gains all the information he needs; Smiley tries to flush out the mole. Last in series.

11.25 Inside the Bat Cave Documentary following life in a greater horseshoe bat roost.

12.25am Deep, Down and Dirty: The Science of Soil **1.25** Hidden Wales: Last Chance to Save **2.25-3.25am** Inside the Bat Cave

5 USA FREEVIEW 21

6.00am Home Shopping **9.00** Entertainment News on 5 **9.10** NCIS **12.00noon** Law & Order

6.00 NCIS Triple bill. A body is found in a bath of acid; a Navy translator dies in mysterious circumstances; the team exhumes the body of a marine.

9.00 Criminal Minds The agents head to Lewiston, Maine, to lead an investigation into a string of murders.

10.00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Triple bill. A city-wide operation targets high-profile figures charged with abusing underage schoolchildren; a sex trafficking operation is connected to the government, police and the Catholic Church; three officers are put on trial after an unarmed black man is shot by police.

12.55am Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **1.50** Person of Interest **2.45** Sight Unseen **3.35** Cops **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

U&Dave FREEVIEW 19

6.00am Teleshopping **7.10** James May's Man Lab **8.00** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **10.00** Guy Martin's Great British Power Trip **11.00** Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escapes **12.00noon** Bangers & Cash **2.00** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British

6.00 Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escapes Visiting Moroccan bazaars.

7.00 Would I Lie to You? With Jimmy Carr, Griff Rhys Jones and Susanna Reid.

7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games

9.00 QI XL Rhod Gilbert, Ignacio Lopez and Zoe Lyons join regular panellist Alan Davies on the comedy quiz.

10.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You

11.00 Taskmaster Mark Watson tries to open an unlocked briefcase.

12.00m't Mock the Week **12.40** Would I Lie to You? **2.00** Not Going Out **2.50** Not Going Out Christmas Special **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

U&Drama FREEVIEW 20

6.00am Teleshopping **7.20** The Bill **8.15** Doctors **9.30** Classic Holby City **10.35** Classic Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.40pm** Classic EastEnders **2.00** All Creatures Great and Small **3.00** Howards' Way **4.10** Bergerac **5.20** One Foot in the Grave

6.00 To the Manor Born Audrey receives a visitor. Comedy, first shown in 1980.

6.40 Last of the Summer Wine Double bill.

8.00 Darby and Joan New details about her late husband's past overwhelm Joan and she desperately needs space from Jack, but finds herself in danger.

9.00 Sister Boniface Mysteries The body of a government official's secretary is found at the bottom of a staircase.

10.00 New Tricks Brian helps Esther's friend find her missing brother.

11.20 Waking the Dead Part two of two. Boyd investigates a hippie commune.

12.40am Hotel Portofino **1.55** One Foot in the Grave **2.25** The Brokenwood Mysteries **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

E4 FREEVIEW 13

6.00am Modern Family **6.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **7.00** Junior Bake Off **8.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **9.00** The Goldbergs **10.00** Modern Family **11.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.00pm** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** The Simpsons **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** Modern Family. Phil and Gloria confront Alice. **4.30** LIVE AFCON. Senegal v Egypt (kick-off 5.00pm). All the action from the opening semi-final, held at Tangier Grand Stadium in Morocco.

7.30 LIVE **AFCON** Nigeria v Morocco (kick-off 8.00pm). All the action from the second semi-final, held at Mohammed V Stadium in Casablanca, Morocco.

10.15 The Inbetweeners Four episodes.

12.25am Open House: The Great Sex Experiment. A couple want to bring another man into their relationship. **1.30** First Dates. With Fred Sirieix. **2.35** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **3.30** The Simpsons **4.25** Modern Family **4.50** The Goldbergs **5.10-6.00am** Don't Tell the Bride

More4 FREEVIEW 18

8.55am Find It, Fix It, Flog It **10.00** A Place in the Sun **11.30** Come Dine with Me: five episodes **2.10pm** Four in a Bed: five episodes **4.50** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away **5.55** Car S.O.S

6.55 Car S.O.S Landscape gardener Darren's 1986 Rover SD1 was once his pride and joy, but when tragedy struck it ended up rotting away in a dirty lock-up.

7.55 The Dog House Olympic cyclist Victoria Pendleton visits Woodgreen animal charity, keen to find a dog she can co-parent with her mother.

9.00 George Clarke's Building Home George meets Kazal and Eleena, who are taking on the challenge of restoring a run-down house in a street near their home after spending 14-years living in Dubai.

10.00 24 Hours in A&E Double bill.

12.10am Emergency Helicopter Medics **1.10** George Clarke's Building Home **2.15** 24 Hours in A&E. Documentary. **3.20-3.55am** Food Unwrapped

Variations & S4C

WALES As BBC1 except: 1.35-1.45pm BBC Wales Today; Weather **6.30-6.55** BBC Wales Today; Weather **10.30** BBC Wales Today; Weather **10.40** Confessions of a Steroid Gang **11.10** FILM The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1 (2014, 12) ★★★★ **1.00-1.15am** Planet Earth: A Monkey's Tale

MERIDIAN As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Meridian; Weather **6.00-6.25** ITV News Meridian. The headlines; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Meridian; Weather

CENTRAL As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Central; Weather. News updates. **6.00-6.25** ITV News Central; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Central; Weather

ITV WALES As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **6.00** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **6.25-6.30** Party Political Broadcast. By the Welsh Labour Party. **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather

WEST As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.25** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country; Weather

ANGLIA As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Anglia; Weather. Headlines. **6.00-6.25** ITV News Anglia; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Anglia; Weather

WESTCOUNTRY As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.25** ITV News West Country **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country; Weather

S4C 6.00am Cyw **11.00** Dysgu Gyda Cyw **12.00noon** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Cymry ar Gynfas **12.30** Heno **1.00** Cartrefi Cymru **1.30** Gwlad y Basg: Gwilym Bowen Rhys **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** Priodas Pum Mil **4.00** Awr Fawr **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Cymry ar Gynfas **6.30** Rownd a Rownd **6.57** Newyddion S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **8.00** Pobol y Cwm. Anita is keen to rekindle an old flame and Sioned gets to the root of Mathew's problem with Sion. **8.25** Y Deis **8.55** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **9.00** Dal y Mellt. Aldo has to escape as Jiffy's actions come to light. **10.05** Sgorio **10.35** Llond Bol O Japan **11.35-12.10am** Rhys Patchell: Japan a'r Gic Olaf

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Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am LIVE **Tennis** Coverage from across the WTA and ATP Tours, including the ATP Adelaide Open, ATP Auckland Open, WTA Adelaide Open, and WTA Hobart Open. **12.00noon** Transfer Talk. The latest transfer news. **1.00** Lunchtime Live **2.00** Sports Desk **3.30** LIVE **SA20** Sunrisers Eastern Cape v Joburg Super Kings. Coverage of the match at St George's Park, Gqeberha. The hosts won this meeting last year as they came away with a 14-run victory. The Sunrisers made 165-4 from their 20 overs with Aiden Markram leading the way with 43 from 39 balls. They then restricted the Super Kings to 151-8 as Marco Jansen took 2-19 from his four overs. **7.00** LIVE **EFL Cup** Chelsea v Arsenal (kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage from Stamford Bridge. **10.45** LIVE **Tennis** The ATP Auckland Open. Coverage of day four of the ATP 250 event, a hard-court tournament at ASB Tennis Centre. **12.00m't-6.00am** LIVE **Tennis** Coverage of the action from across the WTA and ATP Tours.

SKY SPORTS CRICKET

6.00am Big Bash League **7.00** Best of J Anderson: 500th Wicket **7.10** Big Bash League **8.10** LIVE **Big Bash League** Hobart Hurricanes v Brisbane Heat. Coverage from Ninja Stadium. **11.30** Best of England v South Africa. From 2011. **11.45** Best of ICC WT20 **12.00noon** SA20 **2.00** Big Bash League **3.00** Best of J Anderson: 500th Wicket **3.10** Best of Sky Cricket **3.20** LIVE **SA20** Sunrisers Eastern Cape v Joburg Super Kings. From St George's Park, Gqeberha **7.00** Big Bash League **8.00** WPL **9.00** SA20 **10.00** Big Bash League **11.00** Big Bash League **2.20am** Best of J Anderson: 500th Wicket **2.30** Best of England v South Africa **2.45** Best of ICC WT20 **3.00** Big Bash League **4.00-6.00am** SA20

SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

6.00am EFL Cup Retro **8.45** EFL Greatest Games **10.00** Championship Season Review **11.00** EFL Rivalries **12.00noon** EFL Cup **2.00** Bundesliga Highlights Show **3.00** EFL Highlights **3.30** EFL League One Goals **4.00** WSL **4.30** EFL Cup Highlights **5.00** SPFL Round-Up **5.15** EFL Highlights **6.00** WSL **6.30** EFL Cup Highlights **7.00** LIVE **EFL Cup** Chelsea v Arsenal (kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the semi-final first-leg. **10.45** EFL Cup Highlights **11.15** SPFL Round-Up. A round-up of the goals. **11.30** EFL Greatest Games **12.00m't** EFL Cup Highlights **12.30** Championship Retro **3.15** EFL Greatest Games **4.00** EFL Cup Highlights **5.00** Best Scottish Premiership Goals 2021/22 **5.30-6.00am** SPFL

SKY SPORTS GOLF

6.00am Junior Golf **6.30** LPGA Tour Golf **12.00noon** TGL **2.00** Ladies European Tour Golf **5.00** TGL **7.00** PGA Tour: The Cut **7.30** Beyond the Scorecard **8.00** Beyond the Scorecard **8.30** Beyond the Scorecard **9.00** TGL **11.00** PGA Tour: The Cut **11.30** Junior Golf **12.00m't** PGA Tour FedEx Cup Playoffs Official Film 2025 **1.00** PGA Tour Golf **2.00** Best of the Open Zone 2016 **3.00** Best of the Open Zone 2017 **4.00** Best of the Open Zone 2018 **5.00-6.00am** PGA Championship Official Films

TNT SPORTS 1

6.00am TNT Sports Cricket Reload **6.45** One Day International Cricket. India v New Zealand. **7.45** LIVE **One Day International Cricket** India v New Zealand. Coverage of the second match of the three-game series, at Niranjan Shah Stadium. **4.30pm** What I Wore. Glenn Hoddle describes his passion for football. **5.00** Serie A – Full Impact **5.30** Premier League Stories. Henrik Larsson. **6.00** TNT Sports Reload **6.30** The Breakdown **7.00** LIVE **Snooker Masters** Neil Robertson v Chris Wakelin Coverage of the eighth and final first-round match at Alexandra Palace in London. **10.30** Ultimate Pool **12.00m't** One Day International Cricket **1.00-6.00am** UEFA Champions League – Classics

TNT SPORTS 2

6.00am The Monuments **8.00** Women's Alpine Skiing World Cup **9.00** Ally's Social Club **9.45** No Filter Rugby **10.00** Fishing: On the Bank **11.00** Snooker Masters. Action from day three. **1.00pm** LIVE **Snooker Masters** Judd Trump v Ding Junhui. Coverage of the seventh first-round match, played over the best of 11 frames at Alexandra Palace. Trump won this title in 2019 and 2023, while Ding lifted the trophy in 2011. **4.30** Sign Up – Into Football. Joao Gomes talks to Damaris Cooke about his stutter. **5.15** Ultimate Pool **6.45** Original Documentary **7.00** LIVE **Snooker Masters** Neil Robertson v Chris Wakelin Coverage of the eighth and final first-round match at Alexandra Palace in London. **10.30** TNT Sports Reload **11.00** Isuzu UTE A-League Highlights **11.30** Original Documentary **12.30am** What I Wore **1.00** Hard Knocks: In Season with the NFC East **2.00** Snooker Masters **4.00** Isuzu UTE A-League Highlights **4.30** Ninja A-League Women Highlights **5.00-6.00am** ABB FIA Formula E World Championship Highlights

BEST OF THE REST – LIVE SPORT

7.20-9.30am LIVE **Bundesliga** FC Cologne v Bayern Munich (kick-off 7.30pm). (Sky Sports +)

Entertainment & Factual

ITV3 Freeview 10

6.00am Never the Twain **6.30** On the Buses **7.05** Classic Emmerdale **8.10** Classic Coronation Street **9.10** Inspector Morse **11.20** Heartbeat **1.25pm** Foyle's War **3.35** Classic Emmerdale **4.40** Classic Coronation Street **5.50** Heartbeat **8.00** Grace **10.00** Foyle's War **11.55** Trial & Retribution **2.05-2.30am** Unwind with ITV

ITV4 Freeview 26

6.00am The Big Match Revisited **8.05** Magnum, PI **9.05** Kojak **10.10** Boon **11.20** The Professionals **12.20pm** Robin of Sherwood **1.35** Magnum, PI **2.35** Kojak **3.45** Boon **4.50** The Professionals **5.50** Minder **7.00** American Pickers **7.55** Junk & Disorderly **9.00** FILM From Russia with Love (1963/PG) James Bond thriller, starring Sean Connery and Robert Shaw. ★★★★ **11.25** EFL Carabao Cup Highlights **11.55** All Elite Wrestling: Collision **1.50am** Minder **2.45** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30-4.00am** Motorsport Mundial

5STAR Freeview 32

8.00am Amazing Cleans **10.00** Rich Kids Go Skint **11.00** Traffic Cops **2.00pm** Police Interceptors **5.00** Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up **6.00** Home and Away **7.00** Fare Dodgers: At War with the Law **8.00** Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up **9.00** FILM Total Recall (1990/15) ★★★★ **11.20** Adults Only: An Orgasm a Day **12.20am** Adults Only: Sex in the Future **1.20-4.00am** Police Interceptors

REALLY Freeview 44

6.00am Fantasy Homes by the Sea **7.00** Cruise TV with LoveitBookit **8.00** Escape to the Country **9.00** Salvage Hunters **12.00noon** Antiques Road Trip **2.00** The Repair Shop **3.00** Celebrity Yorkshire Auction House **4.00** Long Lost Family **5.00** A Place in the Sun **6.00** Salvage Hunters **8.00** Antiques Road Trip **9.00** NEW Fixer to Fabulous. Dave and Jenny purchase an '80s rancher in an up-and-coming neighbourhood. **10.00** Home Town **11.00** Help! My House Is Haunted **2.00am** Teleshopping **4.00-6.00am** Salvage Hunters

5ACTION Freeview 33

9.00am Trucking Hell **9.15** Traffic Cops **10.15** Police Interceptors **12.20pm** FILM Flame of the Barbary Coast (1945/U) ★★★ **2.10** FILM Ride in the Whirlwind (1965/15) ★★★ **4.00** The Motorway **5.00** Traffic Cops **6.00** Police Interceptors **8.00** Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders **9.00** Traffic Cops **10.00** Behind Bars: World's Toughest Prisons **11.00** Banged Up Abroad **12.00m't** World's Deadliest Weather: Caught on Camera **1.00** Ice Road Truckers **2.00** Trucking Hell **3.50-4.00am** Entertainment News on 5

SKY ARTS Freeview 36

6.00am LSO: Inaugural Concert 2024 – Sir Antonio Pappano **8.05** The Joy of Painting **9.05** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** The Directors **12.00noon** Discovering: Leonardo DiCaprio **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Van Gogh by Vincent **3.00** Wordsworth & Coleridge Road Trip with Frank Skinner and Denise Mina **4.00** The Directors **5.00** Discovering: Kate Winslet **6.00** Tales of the Unexpected

Doc
Sky Witness, 10pm
Jake (Jon-Michael Ecker, left) receives devastating news about a patient and refuses to accept the outcome. Then, when Amy's neuro tests elicit memories of Danny, she pushes herself too far.

7.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents **8.00** Landscape Artist of the Year 2026 **9.00** Douglas Adams: The Man Who Imagined Our Future **10.30** Decoding Turner **12.30am** The Pilgrimage of Gilbert & George **2.30** Voices of Ireland **3.45** Inside Art: Picasso/Ingres at the National Gallery **4.15** Inside Art: Steggles Brothers at Beecroft Southend **4.45** The Art of Architecture: Great Museums of the World **5.45-6.00am** Opera North's Resonance

U&GOLD

7.30am Ever Decreasing Circles **8.00** The Green Green Grass **8.40** Dad's Army **9.20** Are You Being Served? **10.00** Porridge **10.40** Keeping Up Appearances **11.20** Last of the Summer Wine **12.40pm** The Green Green Grass **1.20** Ever Decreasing Circles **2.00** Dad's Army **2.40** Are You Being Served? **3.20** Porridge **4.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **4.40** Last of the Summer Wine **6.00** Keeping Up Appearances **6.40** Porridge **7.20** Dad's Army **8.00** Blackadder the Third **10.00** Men Behaving Badly **10.35** Blackadder the Third **12.35am** Men Behaving Badly **1.10** Blackadder the Third **3.05-4.00am** Men Behaving Badly

U&YESTERDAY Freeview 27

6.10am Great British Railway Journeys **8.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics **10.00** Rise of the Nazis: Dictators at War **11.00** Secret Nazi Bases **12.00noon** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** Rise of the Nazis: Dictators at War **5.00** Secret Nazi Bases **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Great Canal Journeys **8.00** Abandoned Engineering **9.00** Mega Metro **10.00** Bangers & Cash **11.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics **1.00am** Abandoned Engineering **2.00-3.00am** Rise of the Nazis: Dictators at War

U&ALIBI

7.15am Murdoch Mysteries **9.00** Father Brown **10.00** The Mentalist **11.00** Hudson & Rex **12.00noon** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **4.00** The Mentalist **5.00** Hudson & Rex **6.00** Father Brown **7.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **8.00** Death in Paradise **11.00** Father Brown **12.00m't** So Help Me Todd **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **2.55-4.00am** Allegiance

SKY MAX

6.00am Hawaii Five-0 **8.00** The Flash **9.00** Stargate SG-1 **11.00** SEAL Team **12.00noon** The Flash **1.00** Hawaii Five-0 **3.05** S.W.A.T **4.10** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.15** SEAL Team. Action drama. **6.15** Stargate SG-1 **8.15** Never Mind the Buzzcocks **9.00** FILM Final Score (2018/15) An ex-soldier is forced into action when armed terrorists take control of a packed football stadium. Action drama, starring Dave Bautista. ★★★★ **11.00** Fear the Walking Dead **12.00m't** Creature Commandos **1.00** The Force: Manchester **2.00** Rob & Romesh vs Team GB: Winter Special **3.00** S.W.A.T **4.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.00-6.00am** Highway Patrol

SKY ATLANTIC

6.00am Fish Town **7.00** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets **8.00** Boardwalk Empire **10.10** The Sopranos **12.20pm** Game of Thrones **2.30** The Wire **4.40** Westworld **5.45** Deadwood **6.50** Game of Thrones **9.00** House of the Dragon **10.15** Heated Rivalry **12.20am** Deadwood **1.25** The Sopranos **2.30** Game of Thrones **4.35** In Treatment **5.05-6.00am** Urban Secrets

SKY WITNESS

6.00am UK Border Force **7.00** Nothing to Declare **8.00** Border Patrol **9.00** Stop, Search, Seize **10.00** Border Security: Canada's Front Line **11.00** A1: Britain's Longest Road **12.00noon** FBI **1.00** The Rookie **2.00** Send in the Dogs **3.00** Stop, Search, Seize **4.00** Nothing to Declare **7.00** Police 24/7 **8.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **9.00** Matlock **10.00** Doc **11.00** The Rookie **12.00m't** FBI **1.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **2.00** Law & Order: Organized Crime **3.00** Road Wars **5.00-6.00am** Send in the Dogs

SKY COMEDY

8.00am Will & Grace **9.00** Ballers **10.15** Sex and the City **11.25** Entourage **12.30pm** Will & Grace **1.30** Sex and the City **2.40** Ballers **3.45** And Just Like That **4.30** The Office (US) **5.45** Will & Grace **6.45** Community **7.45** Sex and the City **9.00** Ellen DeGeneres: Here and Now **10.15** And Just Like That. After coming clean to Che, Miranda considers a life-altering decision. **11.00** Community **12.00m't** Entourage **1.10** Ballers **2.25** Curb Your Enthusiasm **3.40-5.00am** Silicon Valley

DISCOVERY

6.00am How Do They Do It? **7.00** Junkyard Empire **9.00** Gold Rush **11.00** Diesel Brothers **1.00pm** Deadliest Catch **3.00** How Do They Do It? **5.00** Alaska: Homestead Rescue **7.00** Wheeler Dealers **9.00** Mud Madness **10.00** Kindig Customs **11.00** Expedition Unknown **12.00m't** Deadliest Catch **1.00** Mud Madness **2.00** Kindig Customs **3.00** Gold Divers **4.00-5.00am** Moonshiners

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

8.00am Megafactories **9.00** Air Crash Investigation: Special Report **10.00** Seconds from Disaster **11.00** WW2: Hell Under the Sea **12.00noon** World War II: Secrets from Above **1.00** Air Crash Investigation **3.00** Hitler's Last Stand **4.00** Drain the Oceans: Lost Giants **5.00** Ice Road Rescue **6.00** Nazi Megastructures **7.00** Air Crash Investigation **8.00** NEW Pole to Pole with Will Smith. Double bill. Exploring extreme environments. **9.40** Titanic: The Digital Resurrection **11.10** Air Crash Investigation **12.10am** Car S.O.S **1.10** Toronto Airport Uncovered **2.10** Abandoned **3.10** Food Factory **4.10** Prairie Dog Dynasty **5.00-5.30am** Teleshopping

Radio

BBC RADIO 1

97.6-99.8MHz 6.58am Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James **10.30** Newsbeat **10.33** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Matt and Mollie **3.30** Newsbeat **3.33** Going Home with Katie and Jerry **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Radio 1's New Music Show with Jack Saunders **8.00** Radio 1's Future Pop with Jodie Bryant **10.00** Radio 1's Power Down Playlist with CassKidd **11.00** Benji B **1.00am** Radio 1 Dance Presents **2.00** Radio 1 Anthems **4.00** Radio 1 Pop Anthems **5.00-6.58am** Radio 1 Early Breakfast with Dean McCullough

BBC RADIO 2

88-91MHz 6.30am The Scott Mills Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00noon** Tina Daheley **2.00** Trevor Nelson **4.00** Sara Cox. Music and chat. **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Folk Show with Mark Radcliffe **10.00** The Good Groove with DJ Spoony **12.00m't** OJ Borg **3.00** Sounds of the 90s with Fearne Cotton **4.00-6.30am** Jason Mohammad

BBC RADIO 3

90.2-92.4MHz 6.30am Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **3.00** Choral Evensong **4.00** Composer of the Week: Gottschalk **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape **7.30** Radio 3 in Concert **9.45** The Essay: Five Kinds of Amadeus **10.00** Night Tracks **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30-6.30am** Through the Night

CHOICE
Doctors On Hold
Radio 4, 11pm
Phil Hammond and Tony Gardner write and star in a new sitcom set in a failing NHS GP surgery. Two disillusioned doctors battle with their jobs and personal lives as they struggle to cope with new NHS policy directives and an increasingly impatient set of patients. Mina Anwar and Anna Crilly also star.

BBC RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz 6.00am Today **9.00** More or Less **9.30** Two Nottingham Lads **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** File on 4 Investigates **11.40** This Week in History **11.45** Piccadilly **12.00noon** News **12.04** You and Yours **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One **1.45** Human Intelligence **2.00** The Archers **2.15** Drama: Faith, Hope and Glory **3.00** Money Box **3.30** Dark Breath **4.00** When It Hits the Fan **4.15** The Media Show **5.00** PM **5.57** Weather **6.00** News **6.30** Why in the Name of Pierre Novellie **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **8.00** AntiSocial **8.45** Magic Consultants **9.00** The Long View **9.30** Inside Health **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: The Cyberiad **11.00** Doctors on Hold **11.15** The Skewer **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.00m't** News **12.30** Piccadilly **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As BBC World Service **5.00** News Summary **5.04** Yesterday in Parliament **5.32** Weather **5.34** Shipping Forecast **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45-6.00am** Farming Today

BBC RADIO 5 LIVE

693/909kHz 6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **2.00pm** Matt Chorley **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **8.00** 5 Live Sport **10.30** Tony Livesey **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo **5.00-6.00am** Wake Up to Money

BBC RADIO WALES

FM: 94.6MHz 6.00am Radio Wales News Update **6.05** Wake Up with Radio Wales **6.31** Science Cafe **7.00** Radio Wales Breakfast **9.00** Bronwen Lewis **11.59** The Phone In **2.00pm** Behnaz Akhgar **5.00** Radio Wales Drive **6.30** Country Focus **7.00** Country with Bronwen Lewis **10.00** Eleri Sion **12.00m't** Relax with Radio Wales **1.00-6.00am** As Radio 5 Live

CLASSIC FM

100-102MHz 6.30am Classic FM Breakfast with Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour with Dan Walker **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings with Zeb Soanes **10.00** Calm Classics. Ritula Shah presents. **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00-6.30am** Early Breakfast

ABSOLUTE RADIO

DAB 6.00am Dave Berry **10.00** Leona Graham **1.00pm** Ben Burrell **4.00** Bush and Richie **7.00** Danielle Perry **10.00** Jay Lawrence **1.00-6.00am** Dan Noble

Movies

FILM4

11.00am The Black Shield of Falworth (1954/U) Swashbuckling adventure, starring Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh. ★★ **1.05pm The Spoilers** (1955/12) Western, starring Anne Baxter and Jeff Chandler. ★★ **2.45 The Bravados** (1958/PG) Western, starring Gregory Peck and Joan Collins. ★★ **4.50 The Enemy Below** (1957/PG) Second World War thriller, starring Robert Mitchum and Curt Jurgens. ★★★★ **6.50 I, Robot** (2004/12) Sci-fi thriller, starring Will Smith and Bridget Moynahan. ★★★★ **9.00 Commando** (1985/18) Action adventure, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. ★★★★ **10.50 The Last Stand** (2013/15) Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. ★★★ **12.55-3.05am How to Build a Girl** (2019/15) Drama, starring Beanie Feldstein. ★★★

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

6.15am Hallow Road (2025/15) Thriller, starring Rosamund Pike and Matthew Rhys. ★★★★ **7.50 Friendship** (2024/15) Comedy, starring Paul Rudd and Kate Mara. ★★★★ **9.40 A Minecraft Movie** (2025/PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Jason Momoa. ★★★★ **11.25 Nuremberg** (2025/15) See 8.00pm. ★★★★ **2.00pm 28 Years Later** (2025/15) Horror, starring Jodie Comer. ★★★★ **4.00 Borderline** (2025/15) Dark comedy horror, starring Samara Weaving. ★★★ **5.40 Sinners** (2025/15) Horror, starring Michael B Jordan and Michael B Jordan. ★★★★ **8.00 Nuremberg** (2025/15) Thriller, starring Russell Crowe and Rami Malek. ★★★★ **10.30 Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning** (2025/12) Action thriller, starring Tom Cruise and Hayley Atwell. ★★★★ **1.20am Borderline** (2025/15) See 4.00pm. ★★★ **3.00 A Make or Break Holiday** (2025/U) Romantic drama, starring Jennifer-Juniper Angeli and Marlee Walchuk. ★★ **4.30-6.10am All the Devils Are Here** (2025/15) Thriller, starring Eddie Marsan. ★★★

SKY CINEMA DRAMA

4.05pm Cool Hand Luke (1967/15) Drama, with Paul Newman. ★★★★★ **6.15 Lost in Translation** (2003/15) Drama, with Bill Murray and Scarlett Johansson. ★★★★★ **8.00 About a Boy** (2002/12) Romantic comedy, with Hugh Grant and Toni Collette. ★★★★ **9.50 The Shawshank Redemption** (1994/15) Drama, starring Tim Robbins. ★★★★★ **12.20am American Sniper** (2014/15) Drama, starring Bradley Cooper. ★★★★ **2.40 Turtles All the Way Down** (2024/12) Drama, starring Isabela Merced. ★★★★ **4.40 Sky Cinema Preview-Jan 2026** **5.40-7.00am Boy Meets Boy** (2021/15) Drama, with Matthew J Morrison. ★★★

SKY CINEMA FAMILY

6.00pm Look Who's Talking Too (1990/12) Comedy sequel, starring John Travolta. ★★★ **7.35 Stardust** (2007/PG) Fantasy adventure, with Charlie Cox and Claire Danes. ★★★★ **9.55 Monster Trucks** (2016/PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Lucas Till. ★★ **11.55 Cats & Dogs** (2001/PG) Comedy, with Jeff Goldblum and Elizabeth Perkins. ★★★ **1.35am Paul Blart: Mall Cop** (2009/PG) Comedy, starring Kevin James. ★★★ **3.20 Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2** (2015/PG) Comedy, starring Kevin James. ★★ **5.10-7.05am Spy Kids 2: Island of Lost Dreams** (2002/U) Family adventure sequel, starring Antonio Banderas. ★★★★

TALKING PICTURES TV

4.40pm Poldark (1996/PG) Historical drama, starring John Bowe and Mel Martin. ★★ **6.50 Strange But True** Unexplained stories. **7.25 Scotland Yard** Police drama. **8.00 Van der Valk** Detective drama. **10.10 Accident** (1967/PG) Drama, starring Dirk Bogarde and Jacqueline Sassard. ★★★★★ **12.15am The Weak and the Wicked** (1954/PG) Prison drama, with Glynis Johns. ★★★ **2.00 Stars In Your Eyes** (1956/U) Musical comedy, starring Nat Jackley. ★★★ **3.55-5.55am Dick Tracy Returns** (1938/PG) Crime thriller, starring Ralph Byrd. ★★★

GREAT! MYSTERY

4.00pm Diagnosis Murder **5.00 Murder, She Wrote** **6.00 Sue Thomas: FBEye** Tara shoots an armed robber. Deanne Bray stars. **7.00 Castle** The author enlists the FBI and his father as he races to get his daughter back. **8.00 Unforgettable** Eliot, the mayor and a businessman are taken hostage inside a lift. **9.00 Hailey Dean Mysteries** Crime drama, starring Kellie Martin. **10.55 The Gourmet Detective** (2015/PG) Murder mystery, starring Dylan Neal. ★★ **12.50am If Looks Could Kill** (2016/15) Thriller, starring Stefanie Estes. ★★ **2.30 A Date to Die For** (2015/12) Thriller, with Victoria Pratt and Bart Johnson. ★★★ **4.00-6.00am Sue Thomas: FBEye**

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Letters

Edited by GREG MORGAN

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Email: expressletters@express.co.uk (include your full name, address and telephone number)

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Nato must stand up to big bully Trump on Greenland

NATO needs to stop waffling and, with the approval of Greenland and the Danes, send a substantial multinational force into Greenland, as a strong message to Donald Trump, that if he makes any illegal attempt to take over any part of Greenland, Nato troops will respond in strength ("Europe plans forces to defend Greenland", January 12).

Frankly, Nato should kick the US out of the organisation (at least while Trump remains President) and make Canada its leading member.

Under Trump, the US cannot be trusted. The US is now an enemy of the free world.

Bob Readman,
Sevenoaks, Kent

Stop wasting cash abroad and spend it on military

WE HAVE a shortfall being invested in our armed forces ("We're in a 'much worse' position than before WW2", January 13). There's an easy way of filling the black hole. Labour should not be paying nearly half a billion pounds to the EU for the Erasmus student scheme, it should stop the Chagos deal which will cost billions for years, stop giving hotels to illegal migrants costing billions and cut benefits for the shirkers who contribute nothing.

Send foreign criminals home and stop paying billions in legal aid. That would more than pay for our wonderful armed forces.

Anne Jones,
Stalybridge, Cheshire

No wars if politicians had to send their kids to fight

KEIR Starmer has done nothing but fly around the world trying to play the big statesman, signing treaties and giving our money to whoever puts their hands out since coming to power. He's now saying he will put boots on the ground in other nations' conflicts ("Britain will send troops to Ukraine after a ceasefire", January 7).

Starmer should volunteer every politician's child first before Labour tries to send taxpayers' children as cannon fodder. We would not have any conflicts if this was the case.

Glenys Bateman,
Swansea

Starmer forgets that he answers to higher power

OUR Prime Minister is pathetically trying to emulate Donald Trump ("Who in the world can trust Starmer?", January 13). Will somebody tell Keir Starmer that the difference between a PM and a US president is that he has to answer to an elected chamber.

Dave Alsop,
Churchdown, Glos

Two-year jail sentences for employers of illegals

SO 12,300 illegal migrants have been arrested and taken out of the working black economy, but they don't get returned to France as the law allows, and presumably they are put on taxpayer funded benefits here ("Illegal working a huge lure for asylum seekers", January 13).

That is not going to deter illegal immigration for people in search of tax-free work, but stopping their employment will – with a mandatory two-year prison sentence for their employer.

Robert Beveridge,
Colne, Lancs

LETTER OF THE DAY

STATEMENT: Labour's Technology Secretary Liz Kendall

Gang victims had to fight for state help

THE rank hypocrisy of the Labour Government was on display in the Commons when Technology Secretary Liz Kendall said: "This Government will do everything in our power to keep women and especially children safe online," with new legislation threatening the platform X ("Crackdown on shocking AI 'weapons of abuse' images", January 13).

Where was Labour when women and girls demanded protection and an inquiry into rape gangs?

Then Kendall added: "It is about exercising our sovereign power and responsibility to uphold the laws of this land." Too little too late for hundreds of women and girls ignored by Keir Starmer and his crew.

David Hardman,
Morley, Derbys

Zahawi defection clears decks for Kemi's Tories

ANOTHER recruit for Reform UK. This is good news for Kemi Badenoch and the Conservatives ("Ex-Tory chancellor defects to Reform", January 13).

The defectors are, in the main, failures, and by leaving, clear the way for Kemi to bring in fresh, untainted faces. Nigel Farage is a one-man band and not overly keen on relinquishing authority, as those jumping ship will discover.

Bill Young,
Winsford, Cheshire

Reform a dumping ground for failed Conservatives

THERE'S yet another defection from the Tories to Reform UK as former chancellor Nadhim Zahawi, who once said he would be frightened to live in a country run by Nigel Farage, now backs him to be the next Prime Minister. Reform UK, which is said to be losing some of its lead in the opinion polls, is now going to be seen as a dumping ground for self-serving careerist politicians and those with a personal axe to grind against the Tories. Not very appealing to the electorate as everyone else attempts to up their game.

Diane Silva,
Bournemouth, Dorset

If army of mandarins rage quit, how will we know?

I READ many civil servants would resign should Nigel Farage's Reform UK win the next general election. Surely that would be a win-win. We could be rid of these people with no pay-offs and people who love our country could be employed to take their place and they would actually turn up at the workplace instead of working from home.

Things may also actually get done more quickly and by fewer people. We just need a general election sooner rather than later please.

Robert Hurst,
Lymington, Hants

It's an open and shut case to standardise all luggage

THE story of an airline charging passengers a whopping fee for oversized luggage highlights the chaotic and stressful situation when flying ("Ryanair passenger 'hit with £75 suitcase fine' despite paying extra to bring on board", January 12). It feels like a racket, with airline staff seemingly looking for anyone whose slightly bulging case is a centimetre too large.

This issue should make the airline industry wake up and get together to fix the same rules for all flights.

Make flying agreeable instead of being treated like cattle.

Peter Fieldman,
Paris, France

Potholes only good news for tyre manufacturers

I MADE a 35-mile journey from High Wycombe to Milton Keynes. I am now £1,500 out of pocket due to damaged tyres and wheels ("UK pothole map shows the worst areas for fixing damaged roads – full list", January 11).

Is there any plan for councils to be given funding by the Government to sort this out?

I drove through three different authorities and three A-roads and most A and B-roads are worse than any other country I have visited.

It looks a major disaster, unless you are a tyre manufacturer.

Ron Deamer,
High Wycombe, Bucks

GOVERNMENT'S NET ZERO FIGURES JUST A LOAD OF HOT AIR

SO NOW we know the Government has been cooking the books on net zero ("Tell truth on 'fantasy' cost of net zero push", January 13).

According to the independent National Energy System Operator, the Government's Climate Change Committee's £108billion estimate should be £7.6trillion, while the Institute of Economic Affairs puts the figure at £9tn.

Recharging the batteries of millions of EVs, powering 29 million households and our industry will require double the existing electricity generation.

Roy Daniels,
Kingsclere, Hants

TODAY: Wednesday January 14, 2026

ON THIS DAY

Daily Express
Premier signals swift action to free Kuwait
MAJOR: WAR THIS WEEK HINT
WIN A FREE Disney FAMILY HOLIDAY EVERY DAY
UN envoy flies to Paris as his peace talks fail
Protester is crushed by Soviet tank

35 years ago (1991)
Our front page reported Prime Minister John Major said war in the Gulf will start "sooner rather than later".

Elsewhere, we reported the Red Army used tanks to storm a TV station in Lithuania's capital Vilnius leaving 14 dead, while the country's president appealed to the West for help.

Lithuania was one of three Baltic states to declare independence from Russia in 1990.

83 years ago (1943)
Franklin D Roosevelt became the first US President to travel by air while in office when he flew from Miami to Casablanca to meet Prime Minister Winston Churchill to discuss strategy for the next phase of the Second World War.

51 years ago (1975)
Heiress Lesley Whittle, 17, was snatched from her home in Highley, Shropshire. The kidnapper demanded a £50,000 ransom for the safe return of the girl whose family ran a private coach firm but her body was found on March 7. Donald Neilson, dubbed the Black Panther, was convicted of her murder and that of three Post Office workers in 1976 and given five life sentences.

BIRTHDAYS

Foo Fighters star **Dave Grohl** is 57. He played drums in Nirvana.

Bonnie And Clyde star **Faye Dunaway** is 85. She's won an Oscar and three Golden Globes.

Rapper **LL Cool J** is 58. His real name is James Todd Smith.

Horrible Bosses star **Jason Bateman** is 57. He's in a video for a Mumford & Sons song.

TODAY'S GIGGLE
What do you call a dinosaur who crashes his car? Tyrannosaurus Wrecks.

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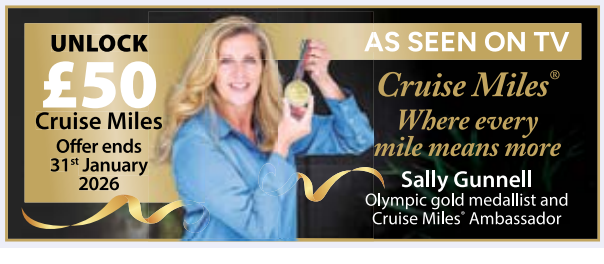

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ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20

The power of suggestion could lead to something remarkable. You should feel pleased and satisfied with the skilful way you manage a situation. Current influences support legal and financial affairs. Embrace the potential for growth, as each step you take brings you closer to your goals. Energy around you is ripe for opportunity.

For more call **0905 789 4171**
(80p/min + network access charge)

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21

Changes that are on the cards will also affect a partner or someone in the family. It would be wise not to rush into heeding their advice. Give yourself a chance to explore the situation before accepting or walking away. There is a way to make it work for you, and taking your time could unveil perspectives you hadn't considered.

For more call **0905 789 4172**
(80p/min + network access charge)

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21

Your energy and enthusiasm will remain unwavering. From the start to the end of the day, your vibrant spirit will uplift everyone. Friends who might have experienced a challenging few days will admit your sense of humour is just the tonic. Cherish these moments as your light-heartedness will weave a tapestry of joy to brighten the dullest corner.

For more call **0905 789 4173**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 23

It might help keep life harmonious if you show extra thoughtfulness towards a loved one. There may be times when they could do with some extra encouragement. This evening will see you lighting up someone's life as you are all set to spring a delightful surprise on them. Your kindness will forge deeper connections, making this time unforgettable.

For more call **0905 789 4174**
(80p/min + network access charge)

FAYE DUNAWAY
Born on this day, 1941

LEO JULY 24-AUG 23

You are going to have to make several decisions that could have an impact on someone you work with. It might help to encourage others to let you know their feelings about something they were uncertain about. Their response should please you and this will help you make the right choices. Trust in their insights for they may provide clarity you need.

For more call **0905 789 4175**
(80p/min + network access charge)

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 23

You will be expected to explain why you have changed your mind about ideas for the home. You may have reconsidered your decision when costs start to hit you. You are open to looking at different options if you can find a fairer price. Embrace this opportunity for dialogue, as it may lead to surprising solutions you hadn't previously considered.

For more call **0905 789 4176**
(80p/min + network access charge)

LIBRA SEPT 24-OCT 23

It may be necessary to rearrange some social plans you had for later in the day. This will probably be the only way to keep the atmosphere harmonious. A problem needs your attention and a housemate needs all the support they can get. Connect with each other as this will strengthen your bond. You'll find your efforts will lead to greater understanding.

For more call **0905 789 4177**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

You aren't the only one who is growing tired of arguing. Take the initiative to extend the olive branch. As time passes, the tension will ease and eventually a relationship that has been difficult will improve. Embrace this chance for reconciliation, as showing kindness now may lead to unexpected warmth and deeper understanding.

For more call **0905 789 4178**
(80p/min + network access charge)

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

You're tired of having to put other people's wishes in front of yours. Even so, it will seem as if a careful approach is needed when it comes to working relationships. A much older or younger colleague will be creating waves and this situation needs a lot of patience. Embrace the opportunity to learn from their perspective.

For more call **0905 789 4179**
(80p/min + network access charge)

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20

You're starting to feel overwhelmed by the expectations of an older, more experienced colleague. Even if you hadn't noticed it, someone you work with is feeling restrained by your actions. They want to experiment while you prefer to stick with tried and tested methods. Consider how you might find common ground for greater productivity.

For more call **0905 789 4180**
(80p/min + network access charge)

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 19

You will realise how commitments are starting to pile up. When you realise the extent of your involvement, you could have some reservations. Your aim should be to step away to allow yourself time to focus on work. Embrace this chance to recalibrate priorities, as it may unveil paths you had overlooked. Tending to your needs can lead to fulfilment.

For more call **0905 789 4181**
(80p/min + network access charge)

PISCES FEB 20-MARCH 20

While some people don't seem to have noticed or appreciated the dedication you have put in previously, there are others who have been very much aware of your efforts. A special talent has not escaped their attention and someone relatively unknown will put an opportunity your way. Embrace this as it could lead to new connections to enrich your life.

For more call **0905 789 4182**
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RUPERT AND THE PENGUINS No.11

"Might the King of the Imps of Spring Go to visit the Penguin King?"

"That would make two kings-kingcup, And oh!" An Imp of Spring pops up!

The King of the Imps! That was Rupert's idea, and he is very hopeful about it. "Perhaps he'll agree to visit the King Penguin," he thinks. "I'll ask the Imps of Spring about it at once." And so he hurries on towards the leafy glade where he usually sees the little folk. But there is not a sign of them. He is searching under the bushes when suddenly a flap of turf is thrown back and a tiny figure pops out. "Well," an Imp of Spring demands. "What do you want?"

CALVIN AND HOBBES BILL WATTERSON

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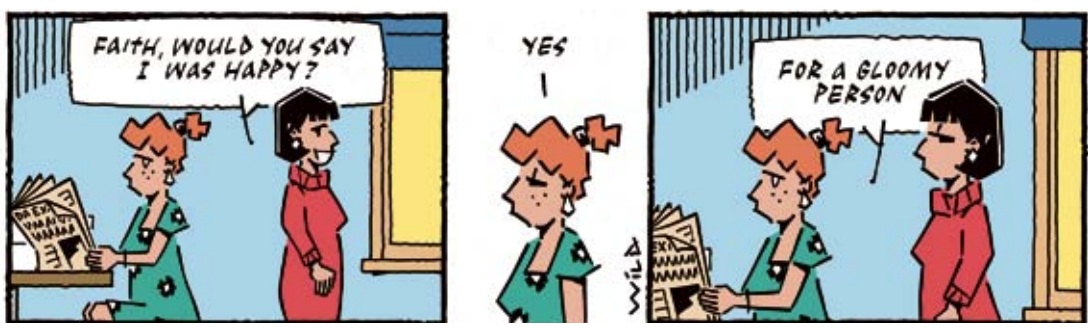

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AT A GLANCE

STOCK MARKET			
FTSE 100	10137.4	▼	-3.4
FTSE 250	22932.0	▼	-104.9
FTSE ALL SHARE	5461.0	▼	-4.3
Shares Traded	8479.6 million		

POPULAR SHARES ON THE RISE		
Barclays	477¼	+4¼
BP	437	+10¼
BT Group	180½	+¼
Haleon	362½	+¼
HSBC Holdings	1212¾	+10½
Lloyds Banking Group	101¼	+¼
Marks & Spencer Group	346	+2
Rolls-Royce Holdings	1305	+18
Shell	2722	+60½
Tesco	420	+3
Unilever	4774½	+4
Whitbread	2767	+183

POPULAR SHARES ON THE SLIDE		
Abrdn	210¼	-3¼
AstraZeneca	14008	-112
Aviva	669¾	-7
BAE Systems	2072	-21
Centrica	178	-3½
Convatec Group	236	-8
GSK	1858	-19
Int Consolidated Airlines	407½	-3½
National Grid	1153½	-25
NatWest Group	628¾	-11½
Saga	428½	-9
Sainsbury (J)	308¾	-2½
Vodafone Group	98¾	-2¾

WORLD MARKETS			
WALL STREET	49,191.9	▼	-398.2
TOKYO	53549.2	▲	+1609.3
HONG KONG	26848.5	▲	+240.0
GERMANY	25420.7	▲	+15.3
FRANCE	8347.2	▼	-11.6

STERLING VALUE			
Dollar	1.343	▼	-0.004
Yen	213.691	▲	+0.703
Euro	1.153	▼	-0.001

DOLLAR VALUE		
Dollar/Yen	159.117	▲ +0.9715
Dollar/Euro	0.859	▲ +0.0016

COMMODITIES	
GOLD($)	▼4609.35
KRUGERRAND(£)	▲3432.41
SILVER(pence)	▲6610.18
BRENT CRUDE($)	▲ 65.47

OTHER INDICATORS	
Base rate	3.75%
Halifax mortgage rate	5.95%
Retail Price Index	+3.8% (CPI +3.2%)
House price Index	+1.7%
Unemployment	1,832,000

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TOURIST'S POUND

Australia	1.96 dollar
Canada	1.82 dollar
China	8.81 renminbi
Czech Rep.	26.32 koruna
Denmark	8.19 krone
Eurozone	1.14 euro
Hong Kong	9.87 dollar
Hungary	420.37 forint
Israel	3.97 shekel
Japan	205.35 yen
Jordan	0.89 dinar
Mexico	22.84 peso
New Zealand	2.27 dollar
Norway	13.10 krone
Poland	4.63 zloty
Saudi Arabia	4.81 riyal
South Africa	21.25 rand
Sweden	11.76 krona
Switzerland	1.04 franc
Thailand	40.55 baht
Turkey	54.02 lira
United States	1.32 dollar

Homes sales surge despite rocky market foundations

By **HOLLY WILLIAMS**

HOUSEBUILDER Persimmon said it sold more homes than expected in a "challenging" market last year, but cautioned trading conditions are not likely to significantly improve over the year ahead.

The firm reported a 12% rise in new home completions to 11,905 last year, with average selling prices in the private market up 5% to around £301,000.

It now anticipates full-year underlying pre-tax profits at the upper end of the £415million to £440m range expected in the market.

Builder had better year than expected

Chief executive Dean Finch said Persimmon "performed well during 2025, in a challenging market". He added: "We have delivered a 12% growth in completions, ahead of market expectations, and we expect to report underlying profit before tax at the upper end of market expectations."

But the group gave a note of caution over the outlook amid pressure on homebuyer finances.

It said: "While we are not expecting any material improvement in market conditions this year, early indications from our Boxing Day marketing campaign are encouraging.

"Recent reductions in mortgage rates are helpful for our private customers although we remain mindful of continued affordability constraints."

UK housebuilding activity has remained in its deepest slump since the start of the pandemic while the wider construction sector has been in contraction for a year, according to the most recent S&P Global UK construction purchasing managers' index survey.

The Bank of England cut interest rates four times in 2025, to 3.75%. But homebuyers are still constrained by rising costs while many are yet to roll off far cheaper fixed-rate mortgage deals.

Despite this, Persimmon said if market conditions remained stable it would be on track for pre-tax profits to rise over the year ahead, with the City predicting between £461m and £487m, and an increase in home completions to 12,043.

Dan Coatsworth, head of markets at AJ Bell, said: "Persimmon's latest update offered some hope that 2026 could be a better year for housebuilders. For now, management are remaining conservative and sticking with current guidance."

FORTNUMS UNVEILS TASTY PROFITS

King Charles visits Fortnum & Mason's Piccadilly store in November

FORTNUM & Mason's profit rose by more than 60% as sales at the London icon ticked up.

The upscale department store had a pre-tax profit of £15million for the 12 months to the end of July 2025, up from £9.3m.

Bosses said profit in the prior year was hit by costs associated with a new distribution centre.

Turnover rose from £227.8m to £239m, with online sales in the EU and US contributing to the improved performance.

Fortnum & Mason, founded in 1707, is owned by the Weston family's Wittington Investments.

Festive results include a 16% rise in revenue in the five weeks to December 24, 2025. Chief executive Tom Athron said: "It's wonderful to be able to report such strong results for the full year and for Christmas."

Nine Inns change hands

Whitbread hotels deal to fund restaurants revamp

HOTELS giant Whitbread has offloaded some of its Premier Inns to property group LondonMetric for £89million.

Nine hotels in the South – including Southampton Airport – have been sold.

Whitbread will use £250m-£300m of proceeds for growth, including turning branded restaurants such as Beefeater into hotels. The sale comes after LondonMetric's recent £44m hotel portfolio acquisition from Whitbread and hikes its Premier Inn ownership to 22.

Whitbread will continue to run the property group sites as the deal is a "sale and leaseback transaction" on a 30-year lease. Andrew Jones, chief executive of LondonMetric, said: "This transaction adds high quality and mission-critical assets that generate a long, strong and growing NNN (triple net lease) income in a sector that continues to benefit from evolving consumer preferences for travel, entertainment and experience."

++ THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 ++

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
3i Group	3063	-64	4459	2999
A.B. Foods	1838	-6½	2337	1835½
Admiral Group	†			
Airtel Africa	357½	-6½	372¾	116
Alliance Trust	1290	-4	1324	1050
Anglo American	3220	-32	3263	2003¾
Antofagasta	3532	+20	3553	1383
Ashtead Group	5384#	-48	5594	3659
AstraZeneca	14008	-112	14224	9667
Auto Trader	573½#	-8½	908½	568½
Aviva	669¾	-7	692½	468¾
Babcock International	1502#	+12	1514	485¾
BAE Systems	2072	-21	2113	1180½
Barclays	477¼	+4¼	488½	241¾
Barratt Development	378	-3½	482¼	350
Beazley Group	818½	+8½	973	769
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	3982	-62	4324	3462
BP	437	+10¼	476¼	331¾
British Amer.Tob	4205#	+86	4421	2905
British Land	397½#	+½	420½	321¼
BT Group	180½#	+¼	222¾	138½
Bunzl	2050	-32	3452	2032
Burberry Group	1311½	-1½	1371½	627¾
Centrica	178	-3½	181½	132¼
Coca-Cola HBC	3846	-74	4034	2708
Compass Group	2314	-50	2843	2305
Convatec Group	236	-8	295½	221¼
CRH	9404	-300	9716	6142
Croda International	2715	-10	3383	2465
DCC	4368	+18	5600	4323¾
Diageo	1664	-10½	2503½	1577
Diploma	5600	+10	5660	3624
EasyJet	489¼	-2¾	587¾	427½
Entain	726	-23½	1022	501¼
Experian Group	3337#	-62	4088	3091
F&C Inv Tst	1261#	-4	1270	962
Flutter Entert.	14985	-690	23630	14670
Fresnillo	3782	+48	3782	644½

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Games Workshop	18650#	-220	19840	12410
GlaxoSmithKline	1858	-19	1901½	1264
Glencore	470¼	+1¾	471	230
Haleon	362½	+¼	415¼	326½
Halma	3634#	-32	3682	2360
Hikma	1538	-27	2340	1507
Hiscox	1388	-11	1429	1035
HSBC Holdings	1212¾	+10½	1217½	713¼
IMI	2622	-16	2648	1606
Imperial Brands	3009	-16	3312	2579
Informa	894	+7¼	993½	640¼
InterContinental Htl	10088¾	-3491¼	10308¼	5527½
Intermediate Cap.Grp	2026	-50	2450	1569
Intertek Group	4598	-68	5385	4064
Intl Consolidated Airlines	407½	-3½	437	224½
JD Sports	84¾	+1½	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	312¾	-12	329¾	228¼
Land Securities	627½	-½	650	499½
Legal & General	261	-2¾	267	215¼
Lloyds Banking Grp	101¼	+¼	101½	53¼
London & Stamford Prop	196	+¾	204½	170½
London Stock Ex	8974	-92	12095	8138

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
M&G	293½	-1¾	297½	172¾
Marks & Spencer	346	+2	411¼	318½
Melrose	645¾	+14¾	680	386
Mondi	892½	-2½	1326	819
National Grid	1153½#	-25	1192½	910¾
NatWest Group	628¾	-11½	665½	381¾
Next	14185	-245	14580	9028
Pearson	1075½	+4	1379	984½
Pershing Square Hold	4850	+128	5090	3244
Persimmon	1378	-36½	1454	1037½
Phoenix Group	736	-5½	746	480½
Prudential	1168	+2	1195½	595¼
Reckitt Benckiser	6190	-38	6250	4633
RELX	3124	-31	4135	2972
Rentokil Initial	459	-14¾	477	309½
Rightmove	515½	-¼	823¾	504½
Rio Tinto	6214	+79	6291	4117
Rolls-Royce Group	1305	+18	1305	563½
Sage Group	1109½#	+5	1348	1050
Sainsbury (J)	308¾	-2½	355¾	228¾
Schroders	413	-3½	428¼	289¼
Scottish Mortgage	1212	-3	1219½	815¼
SEGRO	730	-1	743½	599
Severn Trent	2748	-73	2907	2338
Shell	2722	+60½	2931½	2291½
Smith & Nephew	1203	-51	1435	937¾
Smiths Group	2450	-8	2550	1687
Smurfit Kappa	3150	-1	4495	2558
Spirax-Sarco	7015	-100	8190	5445
SSE	2250#	-33	2313	1463½
St James's Place	1444½	-16½	1475½	791
Standard Chartered	1832	+8	1855½	878¾
Tesco	420	+3	475½	314½
Unilever	4774½	+4	6177½	4631
United Utilities	1192#	-23½	1242	937½
Vodafone Group	98¾#	-2¾	103¾	64
Weir Group	3030		3050	1984
Whitbread	2767	+183	3274	2335

Turtle Bay blasts 'unhelpful' Labour

CARIBBEAN restaurant and bar chain Turtle Bay has hit out at the "unhelpful" Labour government.

The hospitality brand said that Chancellor Rachel Reeves's tax "raid" had contributed to the company slumping into the red.

Turtle Bay cited hiked employers' national insurance contributions as a reason for it falling to a £10.1m pre-tax loss for the year to March 30, 2025. It had recorded a £1.8m pre-tax profit in the prior 12 months.

Turnover fell from £93.6m to £84.3m in its latest financial year.

Founder Ajith Jayawickrema said the government "has been unhelpful with their raid on employers' national insurance".

He also highlighted "fierce" competition in the sector, increased supplier costs and high energy prices as challenges the firm faced.

+ BG + Barclays + BT + Centrica + Dixons Carphone + First Group + HSBC + Kingfisher + Marks & Spencer + Next + Prudential + Rolls-Royce + Sainsburys + Tesco + Unilever + Vodafone + Whitbread + WPP

SHARES AT A GLANCE

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Aerospace & Defence				
Avon Rubber	1986	+36	2180	1338
Babcock International	1502#	+12	1514	485¾
BAE Systems	2072	-21	2113	1180½
Chemring Group	549	+1	593	297½
QinetiQ Group	502½#	-1	572	361
Rolls-Royce Group	1305	+18	1305	563½
Senior	229½	+10½	230	115¾
Alternative Energy				
Porvair	874	-22	916	626
Banks				
Barclays	477¼	+4¼	488½	241¾
Bco Santander	900	+4	914	377½
Close Brothers	486	-15½	550½	208
HSBC Holdings	1212¾	+10½	1217½	713¼
Investec	580½	+4½	596	414
Lloyds Banking Grp	101¼	+¼	101½	53¼
Metro Bank	124¼	-¾	133½	81
NatWest Group	628¾	-11½	665½	381¾
Paragon Group	879	+1½	970	686½
Standard Chartered	1832	+8	1855½	878¾
Beverages				
Barr (AG)	614	-3	711	558
Coca-Cola HBC	3846	-74	4034	2708
Diageo	1664	-10½	2503½	1577
Chemicals				
Carclo	58	+½	80	21
Croda International	2715	-10	3383	2465
Elementis	168	-2½	176½	115
Johnson Matthey	2350#	+20	2350	1156
Synthomer	62½	+1½	158¼	46
Treatt	215	-1	450	186½
Victrex	688	+1	1066	589
Construction & Materials				
Balfour Beatty	711½	-15½	729½	390½
Costain Group	160½	-1½	168	86
CRH	9404	-300	9716	6142
Dialight	345		364	89
Galliford Try	529	-17	548	321
Gleeson (MJ)	418	-9	538	320
Keller Group	1666	-22	1714	1240
Kier Group	217	-6½	231½	115¼
Marshalls	176¼	-3	293	162
Morgan Sindall	4840	-60	4975	2945
Severfield-Rowen	28¾	-¾	52¼	19
Smart (J) & Co	132½#		132½	110
Electricity				
Drax Group	877	-5	891½	536½
SSE	2250#	-33	2313	1463½
Telecom Plus	1360	+6	2085	1336
Electronic & Electrical Equipment				
Acal	594#	-4	738	486
Halma	3634#	-32	3682	2360
Oxford Instruments	2200	+50	2225	1500
Renishaw	3635	-75	3725	2145
TT Electronics	110½	+½	154	73
XP Power	915	+4	1314	621
Equity Investment Instruments				
Aberdeen Asian Sml	379	-2	381	256
Aberforth Smll.Co.	1606	+2	1610	1212
Acorn Income				
Albion Tech.& Gen. VCT	66		71	64½
Alliance Trust	1290	-4	1324	1050
Aurora Inv.Tst.	276	-3	279	212½
AVI Global Tst	258	+1	266½	202
Baillie Gifford Japan	921	-18	951	657
Baillie Gifford Shin Nip	133¼	-1¾	136¾	95½
Bankers Inv.Tst	135	-½	136	101
Baronsmead VCT.2	48½		52	46½
BH Macro GBP	400		414	371½
Biotech Growth Trust	1240		1285	620
BlackRock Mining	939	+1	950	406½
Bluehone AiM VCT2	28¼#		31	28¼
British Assets Tst	27½		49¼	26¼
Brunner Inv.Tst.	1488	-2	1514	1140
Caledonia Inv.	382½	-2	391½	334½
City Natural Res.Yld	386	+2	390	165¾
City Of London	540	-1	543	411½
Dunedin Ent.IT.				
Dunedin Income	310		311	262
Edin Wwide Inv	225½	-1	230½	143
Edin.Inv.Tst.	827	-4	839	680
Edin.US Tracker	383½#	-1½	385	289½
Elderstreet VCT	38¾		41	36¾
F&C Cap&Inc.	349	-1	351	287
F&C Inv Tst	1261#	-4	1270	962
F&C Smaller Cos	181¾#	+¼	181¾	136½
F&C US Smaller Companies	1410	+5	1522½	1115
Fidelity Asian	610	-2	628	454
Fidelity European	430½	-½	433½	338½
Fidelity Special	424#	-2	426½	295½
Finsbury Gwth&In	835	-5	962	795
Foresight Tech.VCT	65½		75½	62
Genesis E.M.F.	1114	+4	1118	632
Graphite Ent	1528	-8	1600	1070
Hansa Tst 'A'	268		272	190
Hansa Tst Plc	270	-3	278	192½
Henderson Far Est	246½	+1	253½	190½
Henderson High Inc	193#	+1	193½	151
Herald Inv.Tst.	2585	-25	2640	1738
HGCapital Tst.	505	-4	538	448
HSBC Infrastructure	117½	-¼	125¼	106
Impax Env.Mkt	403	-1	416½	310½
Int.Biotech.Tst.	954#	-14	996	480
International Public	127½	-¼	127¾	107¾
Invesco Asia.	440#	-1	447	300
Invesco Perp UK	376	+1	386	313½
JPM American	1124		1186	869
JPM Asian	478½	+2½	480	331½
JPM Claverhouse	876	-10	886	660
JPM Emerg Mkt	144	+½	144	95
JPM Euro Sml Co.	613#		616	444½
JPM Global Emerging	176#	-1	177	118½
JPM Indian	998	-6	1106	904
JPM Japanese	733#	-7	747	493
JPM Overseas IT	584		610	480
JPM Smaller Co	331	+½	338	253
JPM US Sml Co.	418	+2	516	338
Jupiter Euro.	935		959	757
JZ Capital Partners	189	+5	220	184
Law Debenture	1102#	-2	1106	788
Lowland Invest Co	163½#	-½	165	114½
Majedie Inv.	276		280	230
Manchester&Lon.	804	-9	944	512
Martin Currie Prtflo Tst.	359#	-2	386	295
Maven Income And Growth VCT 3	33½#		38	33½
Mercantile Inv Tst	262#	-1	263	202½
Merchants Tst.	607	+1	611	474
Mid Wynd Int.	784	-6	836	664
Monks Inv.Tst.	1546	+2	1552	1036
Montanaro Euro Tst.	169		183½	138
Montanaro Uk	103½	-1	106½	87¾
Murray Inc.Tst.	928	-5	938	754
Murray Int.Tst	330½#	-2	335	239
New India	762	+6	832	686
New Star Inv.Tst.	128		130	100
North Atl.Smlr.Tst				
Northern 2 VCT	53½#		57	52½
Northern Venture	56½#		58½	55½
Oxford Tech 2 VCT	6½		7	5½
Pacific Assets.	373	-1	378	302
Pacific Horizon	848	+12	848	507
Pantheon Int.	384	+1	384½	266
Pershing Square Hold	4850	+128	5090	3244
Polar Cap.Tech	485	+5	487½	255½
RCM Technology Trust	548	+5	550½	307
RIT Capital Partners	2220	-15	2275	1722
Ruffer Investment	297½	-½	304	265
Schroder Asia	692#		697	461½
Schroder Inc.	350#	-1	354	255
Schroder Japan	329#	-5	334	209
Schroder UK	208	-1	210	158½
Schroder UK M&S	724	-4	730	520
Scottish American	520		525	454½
Scottish Mortgage	1212	-3	1219½	815¼
Shires Inc.	309#	+2½	316½	222
Small Comp Div.Tst	140	+3	161	124
Standard Life Equity	406#	+1	409	288½
Standard Life UK Sml	515	-2	531	426
Temple Bar.	381	-1	386½	258
Templeton Emrg.	250#	+2	250	151¾
The European Inv.Tst	110#	-1	111¼	84
Throgmorton Tst.	634	-3	637	469
TR Euro.Growth	224	-½	224½	163
TR Prop. IT	327½	-1	338½	277½
Witan Pacific	317	+1	322	216
Wwide Healthcare	380½		397	265½
Financial Services				
3i Group	3063	-64	4459	2999
3i Infrastructure	379½		380½	301
Abrdn	210¼	-3¼	215¼	123¾
Ashmore Group	188½	+1½	193	125
Guinness Peat Group	82½	-1½	96	68¼
IG Group	1305	-20	1342	913
Intermediate Cap.Grp.	2026	-50	2450	1569
International Pers Fin	236		237	121½
IP Group	57½	+¾	65	34¾
Jupiter Fund Man.	170	-2½	174½	68
Liontrust Asset Man	246½	+1½	458	231½
London Stock Ex.	8974	-92	12095	8138
M&G	293½	-1¾	297½	172¾
Man Group	257¼	+1¼	258½	154¾
Provident Financial	113	-2	128½	45
Rathbone Brothers	2000		2025	1406
S & U	2250	+10	2250	1330
Schroders	413	-3½	428¼	289¼
St James's Place	1444½	-16½	1475½	791
Tullett Prebon	248½	-3	311½	228
Walker Crips Group	13	-¼	15¾	7½
Fixed Line Telecommunications				
Airtel Africa	357½	-6½	372¾	116
BT Group	180½#	+¼	222¾	138½
Food & Drug Retailers				
Greggs	1628	+3	2234	1418
Marks & Spencer	346	+2	411¼	318½
Ocado	288¾	+¼	395½	172¼
Sainsbury (J)	308¾	-2½	355¾	228¾
Tesco	420	+3	475½	314½
Food Producers				
A.B. Foods.	1838	-6½	2337	1835½
Anglo-Eastern	1370	-10	1425	602
Carr's Milling	136	+5½	157	112
Cranswick.	4910#	-60	5490	4625
Glanbia	1292	-26	1370	789
Greencore Group	259½#	+23	278½	169¼
Kerry Grp 'A' Shs.	6520½	+104	8757½	6173½
Premier Foods	168		214½	167
REA Holdings	131½	-1½	135	61½
Tate & Lyle	373	+2	661	358
Gas, Water & Multiutilities				
Centrica	178	-3½	181½	132¼
National Grid	1153½#	-25	1192½	910¾
Pennon Group	524½	-9	552	387½
Severn Trent	2748	-73	2907	2338
United Utilities	1192#	-23½	1242	937½
General Industrials				
Bunzl	2050	-32	3452	2032
Goodwin	22900		23700	6180
Melrose	645¾	+14¾	680	386
Mondi.	892½	-2½	1326	819
Smiths Group	2450	-8	2550	1687
Smurfit Kappa	3150	-1	4495	2558
General Retailers				
ASOS	288	-9	436½	218½
Auto Trader	573½#	-8½	908½	568½
B&M Europ Value Ret	165	-1	344½	155¼
Caffyns	425		500	401
Dixons Carphone	125#	-2	146	82
Dunelm	1165	+9	1232	858½
Frasers Group	687	+2	770	546
Halfords Group	142½#	+½	174½	116¼
Headlam Group.	443¾	+½	142	44½
Howden Joinery	834	-7½	914½	679½
Inchcape	785	-7	808	638
JD Sports	84¾	+1½	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	312¾	-12	329¾	228¼
Next	14185	-245	14580	9028
Pets At Home	195½	-1	273¼	192¾
RM Group	112		118	82
Topps Tiles	46¼#	+2	50	29
WH Smith	615½	-10½	1307	613½
Health Care Equipment & Services				
Convatec Group	236	-8	295½	221¼
Flying Brands	+¾		2	+½
Smith & Nephew	1203	-51	1435	937¾
Household Goods & Home Construction				
Barratt Development	378	-3½	482¼	350
Bellway	2734#	-54	2982	2166
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	3982	-62	4324	3462
Bovis Homes	683¼	-17¾	723	510¾
Mcbride	140¾	-4¼	159	101½
Persimmon	1378	-36½	1454	1037½
Reckitt Benckiser	6190	-38	6250	4633
Taylor Wimpey	107¾	-2	123¼	93
Industrial Engineering				
Bodycote	740	-3	747½	460½
Hill & Smith	2285	-25	2310	1530
IMI	2622	-16	2648	1606
Morgan Crucible	228½	-1	274	177½
Northgate	374	-7	395	273½
Rotork	335	-4½	352	275¾
Spirax-Sarco	7015	-100	8190	5445
Vesuvius	414½	-1½	425½	313¾
Weir Group	3030		3050	1984
Xaar	102		145	59
Industrial Metals & Mining				
Castings.	276	+5	319	234
Evraz				
Ferrexpo	69½	-¼	110¾	44¼
Industrial Transportation				
Braemar Shipping Serv	225#	+2	278	201
Clarkson	4150	+30	4505	2995
FirstGroup	186¼	-2	233	146½
Fisher (J) & Sons	375		403	285
Leisure Goods				
Games Workshop.	18650#	-220	19840	12410
Photo-Me Intl.	142½	-½	230	142½
Life Insurance				
Aviva	669¾	-7	692½	468¾
Chesnara.	302	+½	304	212¾
Legal & General	261	-2¾	267	215¼
Phoenix Group	736	-5½	746	480½
Prudential	1168	+2	1195½	595¼
Media				
4imprint Group	4255	+95	6030	3035
Bloomsbury Publish.	485	-½	672	468
Future	524	+12	1029	507
Informa	894	+7¼	993½	640¼
ITV	80¾	-½	87¾	66¼
Pearson	1075½	+4	1379	984½
Reach	56	+1	88¼	53
STV Group	119	+6	208	103
Wilmington Group.	295	+6	387	287¼
WPP Group	321	-5¾	787¾	269
Mining				
Anglo American	3220	-32	3263	2003¾
Anglo Pacific	129#	+½	131¼	50
Antofagasta.	3532	+20	3553	1383
BHP Billiton	2393	+43	2403	1609½
Endeavour Mining	4108	+52	4130	1485
Fresnillo.	3782	+48	3782	644½
Gem Diamonds	3		12	2¾
Glencore	470¼	+1¾	471	230
Hochschild Mining.	570½	-2½	576	168
Kenmare Res.	251½	-5½	436	227
Petra Diamonds	19	+2	30½	10½
Rio Tinto	6214	+79	6291	4117
Mobile Telecommunications				
Vodafone Group	98¾#	-2¾	103¾	64
Nonequity Investment Instruments				
Oryx Int.Gwth.	1225	+15	1392½	1042½
Rights &Iss.Inc	2050	+40	2260	1670
Nonlife Insurance				
Admiral Group				
Beazley Group	818½	+8½	973	769
Hiscox.	1388	-11	1429	1035
Lancashire	596	-5	694	523
Oil & Gas Producers				
BP	437	+10¼	476¼	331¾
Cairn Energy	227	+9	331½	183
Enquest	11¼	+½	16½	9¾
Gulf Keystone Pet.	179½	+5½	224½	148¾
Harbour Energy	202	+4	294	151¼
Shell	2722	+60½	2931½	2291½
Soco International	20¾#		27½	18
Tullow Oil	6¾	+¼	23¾	4
Oil Equipment, Services & Distribution				
Hunting	397½	+4	404	246½
John Wood Group	26	+1¾	72½	17¼
Personal Goods				
Burberry Group	1311½	-1½	1371½	627¾
PZ Cussons	72¼	+½	88¼	66
Unilever	4774½	+4	6177½	4631
Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology				
AstraZeneca	14008	-112	14224	9667
Genus	2515	-50	2715	1424
GlaxoSmithKline	1858	-19	1901½	1264
Haleon	362½	+¼	415¼	326½
Hikma	1538	-27	2340	1507
Ovoca Gold	1¼			
Oxford Biomedica	739	-10	751	232½
Real Estate Investment & Services				
Boot (Henry)	223		237	196
Cardiff Property	2700		2800	2540
CLS Holdings	60	+2	78	53½
Foxtons	58¼	+¼	68¼	52¼
Harworth Group	166½	-2½	189½	159
Mountview Est.	9300	+200	10200	8700
Panther Secs.	290	+5	320	270
Rightmove	515½	-¼	823¾	504½
Savills	1018	-4	1110	871
Wynnstay Props.	875		875	680
Real Estate Investment Trusts				
Big Yellow Group	1040#	-6	1180	848
British Land	397½#	+½	420½	321¼
Capital & Counties	142¼	-¾	161¼	113½
Derwent London	1807	-19	2096	1608
Grainger	193¼	-¼	228	177½
Great Portland Est.	327	+1½	363	262
Hammerson	335¾	-8¾	348¼	220½
Helical Bar	187#	-1¼	240	171¾
Land Securities	627½	-½	650	499½
London & Stamford Prop	196	+¾	204½	170½
Primary Health.	102	-1½	104	86¼
SEGRO	730	-1	743½	599
Town Centre	126	+2	149	117
Unite Group	565	-1	879½	510
Value & Income	201½#	-½	215	173
Workspace Group	403#	-7	478½	362
Software & Computer Services				
Computacenter	3162	-28	3222	2024
Intec Telecom				
Microgen	296	+1	344	255
Moneysupermarket	187½	+½	221½	180½
Pendragon	342	-6	558	296
RELX	3124	-31	4135	2972
Sage Group	1109½#	+5	1348	1050
Triad Group	250		400	240
Support Services				
Ashtead Group	5384#	-48	5594	3659
Capita Group	395½	-2½	407½	175
DCC	4368	+18	5600	4323¾
Diploma	5600	+10	5660	3624
Essentra.	95		126¼	89¾
Experian Group	3337#	-62	4088	3091
Ferguson.	17980#	+50	19470	11670
Hays	51	-¾	88¼	51
Intertek Group	4598	-68	5385	4064
Johnson Service	135½	-½	159½	124
London Security	2850		3800	2600
Macfarlane Group	72		120½	62¾
Mears Group	351	-3	417½	311½
Michael Page	208½	-14¾	341¼	207¼
Mitie Group	166¼#	-½	171½	107¾
Norish.	18¾	+¼	18¾	14
Paypoint	461	+4½	853	438½
Rentokil Initial	459	-14¾	477	309½
Robert Walters	139½	+2½	315	116
RS Group.	642½	-7½	681½	487¼
Serco Group	290½	-2¼	296	147
SIG	9¾	+¼	18	8½
Smiths News	68½#	+1½	77½	47½
Speedy Hire	25#	+¼	32¼	18
SThree	181½	+1¼	289½	137½
Travis Perkins	647	-2½	714	494
Trifast	71¼	-½	87½	59
Vitec Group	12½	+½	135	11
Technology Hardware & Equipment				
BATM Advanced	16½		19¾	13
Tobacco				
British Amer.Tob	4205#	+86	4421	2905
Imperial Brands	3009	-16	3312	2579
Travel & Leisure				
888 Holdings	22¾		74	21
Carnival	2265	-62	2406	1134
Celtic.	199		208	142½
Compass Group	2314	-50	2843	2305
Domino's Pizza.	181¼	+2¼	302¾	167¼
EasyJet	489¼	-2¾	587¾	427½
Entain.	726	-23½	1022	501¼
Flutter Entert.	14985	-690	23630	14670
Fuller Smith & Turner	738	+4	740	508
Heavitree	220		280	200
InterContinental Htl	10089½	-22¼	10309¼	5528
Intl Consolidated Airlines	407½	-3½	437	224½
Irish Continental Uts	565	-10	575	380
Marston's	65		67	33¼
Mitchells & Butlers	277	+2	291½	208½
National Express	22½	-¾	78	21
Rank Group	98	+1	160½	77¾
Saga	428½	-9	449	111½
Wetherspoon (JD)	757	+½	804	541
Whitbread	2767	+183	3274	2335
AIM				
Alumasc Group	252		395	232
Arbuthnot Banking	882½	+2½	1100	837½
Boohoo	22	-1	30½	10½
Camellia	4975	-30	6050	4090
Churchill China	335		710	325
CML Microsystems.	265		335	210
Colefax Group	960		975	750
CPP Group	80		162	68½
Cropper (James)	400		402¼	132½
Falkland Islands.	251#		316¾	162½
Fevertree Drinks	842	+16	998	611½
Filtronic	184	+11½	185	82½
James Halstead	138	-½	181½	133
Mothercare	2½		4¼	2¼
Mpac Group	320		586	270
Naked Wine.	77¼	+¼	93½	43
Nichols.	1010	+54	1465	930
Northamber	31½#		34	26
Portmeirion.	99	-1	189	94
Regal Petroleum	16	-¼	26½	14½
Rockhopper Exploratn	67½	+1	87¾	33¼
Ten Alps	46½		73	46½
Titon Holdings	97½		98½	69
Volex.	432½	+½	438	198¾
Young & Co Brewery A.	806	+5	992	714

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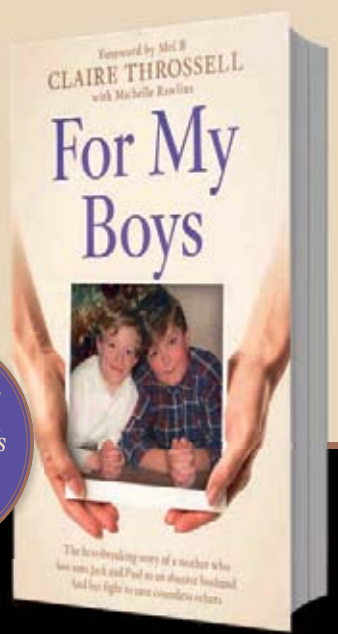

Foreword by Women's Aid patron, Mel B.

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SUPPORTIVE RECLINING OFFICE CHAIR WITH FOOTSTOOL

Whether you're taking a break from work or giving yourself a well-earned moment of rest, having a comfortable, supportive chair makes all the difference. The Ergonomic Executive Reclining Chair combines smart design with a padded, sponge-filled seat, delivering comfort that supports your body exactly where it needs it most.

Equipped with a 360-degree swivel and a 180-degree recline, you can adjust your seating angle effortlessly for reading, working, or stretching back during a break. A separate footstool allows you to fully elevate your legs, enhancing relaxation and posture.

The chair is upholstered in soft PU leather and set on a sturdy metal frame with a walnut-coloured wooden runner, offering both style and stability. Its padded armrests and ergonomic contours ensure support throughout the day. Ideal for home or office, this chair creates a dedicated space for rest, reading, or simply taking a pause between tasks, combining modern design with practical comfort for hours of use.

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STYLISH WOODEN OUTDOOR STORAGE

Keep your outdoor space organised and your tools protected with this practical fir wood garden shed. Thoughtfully designed, it features three bottom shelves and a large top compartment, giving you plenty of room to store garden tools, outdoor equipment, and seasonal items in a neat and accessible way. The shuttered wooden doors allow airflow, preventing dampness while a latch lock keeps your belongings secure.

The slanted asphalt roof protects your items from rain and prevents water pooling, while the natural fir wood construction resists mild weathering, mould, and insects, ensuring a long-lasting outdoor storage solution. Each shelf can support up to 15kg, making it versatile enough for pots, gardening accessories, or small tools.

Its compact, vertical design makes it ideal for small gardens or patios, offering efficient storage without taking up unnecessary space. Easy to assemble, strong, and functional, this garden shed is a reliable and stylish way to keep your outdoor area tidy, organised, and ready for any gardening project throughout the year.

- ✓ Perfect for areas with limited space
- ✓ Reclining asphalt roof to prevent water build up
- ✓ Shutter design allows air inside
- ✓ Self-assembly required
- ✓ Size: H160 x W87 x D46.5 cm

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Racing

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FLAT DATE FOR HILL

Southwell up next for Hendo's former champ

By **David Yates**

CONSTITUTION HILL is expected to draw a "bumper crowd" to Southwell after he was committed to his Flat debut by Nicky Henderson.

The Seven Barrows handler had been struggling to find a suitable race to boost his 2023 Champion Hurdle hero's confidence without any jumps in sight.

But yesterday the BHA confirmed that a SBK-sponsored £40,000 novice 1m 4f event would be added to the Nottinghamshire venue's Friday Night Live fixture on February 20.

The new concept is aimed at a younger audience and, after its first card at Wolverhampton on January 9 was lost to snow, around 5,000 fans are expected to head to its belated Newcastle launch on February 6.

"To have a rock star horse like Constitution Hill running at Friday Night Live is amazing," said its driving force Dom Matcham, whose Invades company has brought thousands of students to the racecourse.

"I think we will get a bumper crowd. For a first-time racegoer, it will create a huge atmosphere and great energy. And hopefully they will come back."

William Hill trimmed Constitution Hill to 10-1 for the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham on March 10 yesterday after he featured among 16 entries.

The nine-year-old's career has been stalled by jumping issues, with the first of three falls occurring while trying to regain his crown last March.

"When Nicky Henderson spoke about the need for a Flat race for Constitution Hill, we took the idea to Arena Racing Company," said Adam Baylis, marketing director of SBK. "We're delighted to have been able to help make it happen."

HILL PLAN: Constitution Hill will run at Southwell in February

Faye's hurdler out to prove a big Hit

By **The Scout** (Melissa Jones)

ALMUHIT (3.50, Nap) is fancied to strike at trainer Faye Bramley's local track in Newbury's conditional jockeys' handicap hurdle.

The dual-purpose performer is rated 87 on the Flat and 112 over jumps, after a pair of victories for his stable in this discipline.

A fan of better ground, Almuhit continued on an upward curve when finishing second at the Punchestown Festival and there is mileage in his mark given the ability he has shown on the level.

Sam Thomas, left, has found the key to C'EST DIFFERENT (2.40, nb), tipped to shrug off a 12lb rise in the weights after a 49-day break.

The Boylesports Home Of Early Payout Novices' Hurdle should be a straightforward task for SOBER GLORY (12.35, trb).

The six-year-old gelding sprinted clear off a steady gallop at Market Rasen and, with another summer on his back, can rate higher still.

12.35 BOYLE SPORTS NOVICES' HURDLE (DIV 1)
£8,169 (Class 3) 2m 69yds (11 declared)

1	1111-14	● **SOBER GLORY (39) (D)** P Hobbs & J White 6 11-8	B R Jones	★131
2	5	**COLBY MAYFIELD (27)** J & R Flint 6 11-2	L Williams	82
3	3-3	**DUTCH CORNER (48)** D Skelton 5 11-2	H Skelton	115
4		**INTO BATTLE (F104)** R Stephens 5 11-2	R T Dunne	–
5	1/177-	**IT'S TOP (327)** O Signy 6 11-2	G Sheehan	–
6	5L5	**LHEUR DE GLOIRE (16)** B Pauling 5 11-2	C Pritchard(3)	103
7	234	**MESCALERO (44)** Harry Eustace 6 11-2	J Quinlan	–
8	47-5	**SPANISH DANCER (28)** R Bandey 7 11-2	B J Powell	109
9	783-L8	**URBAN ISLE (29)** H Morrison 5 11-2	T Cannon	85
10	46-L8	**HARLEY'S PRIDE (29)** D Pipe 6 10-9	J Tudor	86
11	4-44	**YELD TO CALL (55)** Mrs J Williams 5 10-9	C Gethings	119

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 5, 7 HOOD: Nos. 3, 8.

SP FORECAST: 8-13 Sober Glory, 7 Dutch Corner, 8 Yeld To Call, 10 Mescalero, 14 Spanish Dancer, Into Battle, 16 It's Top, 33 Others.

2025: Jurancon 6-11-8, Jack Tudor 5-4 Fav (D Pipe), 13 ran.

1.05 BOYLE SPORTS NOVICES' HURDLE (DIV 2)
£8,169 (3) 2m 69yds (11)

1	212-13	**NORTH OF RICHMOND (41) (D)** A Hales 6 11-8	K Woods	120
2	6L-6	**BAMBER (38)** A King 6 11-2	T Bellamy	105
3	2/21-332	**BESPOKE TAILOR (29) (F)** O Signy 6 11-2	G Sheehan	★131
4	8FL	**BUSHSTREET BOWMAN (15)** B Pauling 6 11-2	B R Jones	54
5	2	**FIRE WARNING (105)** N Henderson 5 11-2	J Bowen	129
6	4L	**GULF COAST HIGHWAY (16)** N Mulholland 5 11-2	C O'Farrell	62
7	0	**JACQUETTA (80)** G & J Moore 5 11-2	Mr Ben Pollard(10)	73
8	2	● **LEJO DU SEUIL (102)** I Williams 5 11-2	R T Dunne	119
9	421/LP	**PAINTED WOLF (27)** B Case 8 11-2	C Gethings	64
10	7-67	**MC'FLO (121)** A Carson 5 10-9	J Quinlan	74
11		**SQUARE D'ALBONI (F81)** D Skelton 4 10-3	C J Todd	–

TONGUE STRAP: No. 9 HOOD: No. 6.

SP FORECAST: 5-4 Fire Warning, 2 Bespoke Tailor, 4 Square D'alboni, 10 North Of Richmond, 16 Lejo Du Seuil, 20 Bamber, 66 Bushstreet Bowman, 100 Others.

2025: Jurancon 6-11-8, Jack Tudor 5-4 Fav (D Pipe), 13 ran.

1.35 JUNIOR 'NATIONAL HUNT' HURDLE 4YO
£7,922 (3) 2m 69yds (10)

1	31	● **APOLLON FORLONGE (34) (D)** W Greatrex 11-7	J Bowen	108
2	PL	**CALLERO (24)** G & J Moore 11-0	C Quinn	48
3		**DA LITTLE LION MAN** J & R Flint 11-0	Robert Dunne	–
4	2	**FEEL GUT (105) (F)** N Henderson 11-0	Doubtful	–
5	3F	**MATIWO (32)** Mrs J Williams 11-0	C Gethings	★116
6	65	**PINK 'N PURPLE (24)** Seamus Mullins 11-0	B Macey(7)	60
7	L	**SIXTY'S ROCK (41)** A King 11-0	T Bellamy	84
8	9	**CLEAR SKY (76)** J Scott 10-7	L Williams	–
9	86	**LETS GO MO (28)** L Wadham 10-7	T Cannon	–
10	78	**MYA DU CLOS (28)** Christian Williams 10-7	J Tudor	78

SP FORECAST: 5-4 Matiwo, 7-4 Apollon Forlonge, 8 Sixty's Rock, Lets Go Mo, 16 Pink 'n Purple, 25 Clear Sky, 33 Mya Du Clos, 50 Da Little Lion Man, Callero.

2025: Sherminator 11-0, Harry Cobden 11-4 (E Lavelle), 7 ran.

2.05 DJB CLEANING HANDICAP CHASE
£6,865 (4) 2m 7f 91yds (12)

1	232-P11	**BUCKNA (25)** W Greatrex 6 12-2	J Bowen	125
2	32-U422	**MUSKOKA (19)** E Lavelle 8 11-13	H Cobden	123
3	24P/4-3F	**TOP TARGET (33)** K Bailey & M Nicholls 8 11-12	T Bellamy	119
4	21P2-62	**AVIATION (28)** L Wadham 7 11-11	T Cannon	122
5	P21L-P7	**AWAYTHELAD (54)** B Pauling 9 11-10	B R Jones	123
6	44P4-23	**GOLD IN THE RIVERS (48)** D Pipe 7 11-10	J Tudor	122
7	L3F5-43	**SHELDON (27)** Seamus Mullins 10 11-9	B Macey(7)	116
8	62319-2	● **TAITA HILLS (32)** G & J Moore 8 11-9	F Mitchell(3)	117
9	61P1-L2	**CAPTAIN BOUDET (35)** J Scott 7 11-5	L Williams	★126
10	PP-1L4F	**ALWAYS BUSY (174)** Christian Williams 8 11-3	Mr John Joe Murphy-Knight(7)	123
11	1L-P223	**MAHLER MOON (35)** F O'Brien 8 10-11	J J Burke	123
12	212-843	**RULE ME IN (52)** Christian Williams 7 10-10	K Woods	109

BLINKERS: Nos. 6, 9 VISOR: No. 2 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 9, 11 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 4, 5, 11.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Top Target, 3 Buckna, 15-2 Muskoka, 10 Aviation, Taita Hills, Captain Boudet, 14 Gold In The Rivers, Mahler Moon, 20 Others.

2025: Jasmin De Grugy 6-11-11, Richie McLernon 7-4 Fav (A Honeyball), 8 ran.

2.40 WENDIGO HANDICAP HURDLE
£5,809 (4) 3m 57yds (17)

1	54711-1	● **C'EST DIFFERENT (49)** S Thomas 6 12-1	D Johnston	119
2	35/31-4L	**KAYF DANCER (39)** P Hobbs & J White 8 12-0	C Pritchard(3)	108
3	3L4U-66	**HIGH TREASON (57)** N & W Twiston-Davies 7 11-11	S Twiston-Davies	–
4	160-P05	**KNOCKANORE (32)** R Potter 9 11-10	F Mitchell(3)	94
5	531351	**KISS MY FACE (15) (D)** A Ralph 9 11-10	J A Anderson(3)	117
6	225-11P	**OCEAN CONQUEST (40)** N & W Twiston-Davies 5 11-10	T McCain-Mitchell(5)	119
7	213-01P	**CRAZIERTHANDAISY (39) (F)** N Henderson 7 11-9	J Bowen	118
8	4L5-L41	**BLOCK ROCKIN BEATS (24)** O Signy 7 11-9	G Sheehan	117
9	1-32554	**TWIST OF FATECATCH (44)** N Mulholland 6 11-6	C O'Farrell	122
10	PPU5P-5	**KINTAIL (34)** Mrs M Rowley 7 11-4	C Deutsch	121
11	74-223F	**SPITALFIELD (132) (D)** J & A O'Neill 8 11-4	Jonjo O'Neill Jr	121
12	1PL0-4P	**DE KINGPIN (38) (C)** B Pauling 7 11-3	B R Jones	119
13	112L93	**FADED FANTASY (35)** Christian Williams 7 11-2	Mr John Joe Murphy-Knight(7)	121
14	L3/22-92	**ISLAND RUN (48)** P Hobbs & J White 9 10-12	Sean Houlihan	118
15	54-5L21	**TOP GUY (39)** D Skelton 6 10-11	H Skelton	119
16	684-331	**ON THE GO (64)** C Longsdon 6 10-9	D McConville(7)	119
17	P213-63	**JOLIE BAIE (36) (D)** Miss J Davis 7 10-8	J J Burke	★123

VISOR: Nos. 3, 5 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 13, 17 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 4, 6, 9, 12, 14.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 C'est Different, 7 Top Guy, 15-2 On The Go, 8 Block Rockin Beats, 10 Spitalfield, Kiss My Face, Crazierthandaisy, 14 Ocean Conquest, 20 Others.

2025: Keable 8-11-10, Callum Pritchard(7) 9-4 Fav (P Hobbs & J White), 9 ran.

NEWBURY SKYSPORTSRACING

THE SCOUT

12.35 SOBER GLORY	2.40 C'EST DIFFERENT (nb)
1.05 Lejo Du Seuil	3.15 Panic Attack
1.35 Apollon Forlonge	3.50 ALMUHIT (nap)
2.05 Taita Hills	

3.15 ALDER DEMAIN & AKERS MARES' CHASE (LSTD)
£22,780 (1) 2m 7f 91yds (5)

1	3312-11	● **PANIC ATTACK (46) (C)** D Skelton 10 11-6	H Skelton	★156
2	L4U-220	**ILOVETHENIGHTLIFE (32)** J Tizzard 8 11-2	B J Powell	136
3	7/1-LL	**MINI MILDRED (16)** N Mulholland 7 11-2	C O'Farrell	125
4	757-112	**MOLTO BENE (32)** C Longsdon 7 11-2	Lilly Pinchin	137
5	2236/F3	**PRESENTING A QUEEN (53)** A Honeyball 9 11-2	S Twiston-Davies	121

BLINKERS: Nos. 2, 5 TONGUE STRAP: No. 4 CHEEK PIECES: No. 3.

SP FORECAST: 1-6 Panic Attack, 7 Molto Bene, 10 Ilovethenightlife, 50 Presenting A Queen, 100 Mini Mildred.

2025: Don't Rightly Know 10-11-2, Harry Cobden 2-1 Fav (P Gundry), 5 ran.

3.50 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' H'CAP HURDLE
£5,809 (4) 2m 69yds (12)

1	PP0/L-26	**PARRAMOUNT (26) (D)** C Longsdon 10 12-1	D McConville(3)	120
2	6740-7P	**TINTINTIN (48) (D)** F O'Brien 7 11-13	T Broughton	★125
3	2-3UI36	**DOCTORS HILL (16) (D)** P Hobbs & J White 6 11-11	C Pritchard	117
4	2/26-F31	**GENERAL BRIAR (44) (D)** C Gordon 7 11-10	F Gordon	116
5	71-352	**SIR HOBNOB (45)** N & W Twiston-Davies 5 11-8	T McCain-Mitchell(3)	110
6	5115PL/	**GIFTED ANGEL (F15) (D)** Jack Jones 6 11-7	F Mitchell	–
7	L5011-2	● **ALMUHIT (F116)** Faye Bramley 7 11-6	Isabelle Ryder(3)	118
8	2-21	**LEAUMEC DE MEE (40)** D Skelton 5 11-5	Harry Atkins(6)	111
9	7223-11	**SOLDIER'S LEAP (48) (D)** T Ellis 6 11-2	J Andrews	117
10	632-L13	**UHTRED RAGNARSON (41) (D)** A King 5 11-1	P Armson(3)	121
11	4/P315-P	**LIONS PEAK (41)** J Snowden 6 10-13	J A Anderson	120
12	2431	**PREMIER (34) (D)** W Greatrex 4 10-3	W Featherstone(6)	113

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 7, 9 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 2 HOOD: Nos. 3, 9, 12.

SP FORECAST: 5 Leaumec De Mee, 11-2 General Briar, 13-2 Almuhit, 7 Soldier's Leap, 15-2 Premier, 8 Parramount, Uhtred Ragnarson, 10 Sir Hobnob, Doctors Hill, 20 Others.

2025: No corresponding race.

GOSSIP FROM THE GALLOPS

Lambourn:	Newmarket:
FIRE WARNING	**KUIAMA**
(1.05 Newbury)	(11.55 Lingfield)
Wales: C'EST DIFFERENT	**North: TRY STORM CAT**
(2.40 Newbury)	(7.30 Kempton)

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Harry Cobden 21% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** N Henderson 16% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.05 Gulf Coast Highway (hood), 1.35 Clear Sky (wind surgery), 2.05 Gold In The Rivers (blinkers, wind surgery), 3.50 Tintintin (cheek pieces, tongue strap), 12.35 Mescalero (tongue strap), Yeld To Call (wind surgery), It's Top (wind surgery). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 12.35 Mescalero, Sober Glory. 2.05 Rule Me In(hcp ch), Top Target(hcp ch). 2.40 De Kingpin(hcp ch). 3.50 Doctors Hill(hcp hdl). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Yeld To Call** (12.35) & **Matiwo** (1.35) 133 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 12.35 **Into Battle** from E Walker to R Stephens. 1.05 **Fire Warning** from H Merienne in France to N Henderson, **Lejo Du Seuil** from M Seror to I Williams, **Square D'alboni** from R Beckett to D Skelton. 1.35 **Feel Gut** from J Silva to N Henderson. 3.50 **Gifted Angel** from T Dascombe to Jack Jones.

VITAL STATISTICS

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AYR: Heavy-soft in places

12.48—KILNESARE FLIGHT (B Hughes, 4-1) 1; Next Twist (11-8 fav) 2; Bras D'or (15-8 2nd fav) 3. 10 ran. 1¾l, 6½l. (D McCain). Tote: £5.00; pl £1.60, £1.30, £1.10. exacta: £13.00. trifecta: £26.10. CSF: £10.92.

1.18—DREAM SHADOW (J J Burke, 8-15 fav) 1; Just Her Type (5-2 2nd fav) 2; Lets Mingle (11-2) 3. 5 ran. 5½l, 4l. (F O'Brien). Tote: £1.54; pl £1.10, £1.50. exacta: £2.30. trifecta: £3.90. CSF: £2.39. Non-runners: Park Princess, Roses All The Way.

1.48—SHOESHINE BOY (Craig Nichol, 11-2) 1; Maura Jeanne (15-2) 2; Kelvin Forlonge (3-1 fav) 3. H'cap 10 ran. 1¼l, 1l. (D Whillans). Tote: £6.50; pl £2.00, £2.50, £1.30. exacta: £37.00. tricast: £148.08. trifecta: £185.90. CSF: £47.21.

2.18—MEETMEBYTHESEA (B R Jones, 5-2 2nd fav) 1; Dedicated Hero (7-1) 2; Fingle Bridge (8-13 fav) 3. 5 ran. 1¾l, 2l. (B Pauling). Tote: £3.50; pl £1.40, £2.50. exacta: £13.60. trifecta: £22.30. CSF: £17.87.

2.48—BIG ZOUK (B Hughes, 11-8 fav) 1; Rob Roy Macgregor (5-1) 2; Jirko (5-2 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 2¾l, 1¼l. (N Richards). Tote: £2.38; pl £1.30, £3.40. exacta: £10.80. tricast: £15.47. trifecta: £28.40. CSF: £9.25. Non-runners: I See The Sea, Kingston Rock.

3.18—PLATIN MOON (B Lynn, 10-3) 1; He's Bresilian (15-8 fav) 2; Two Auld Pals (7-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 1¾l, 10l. (N Alexander). Tote: £4.34; pl £1.60, £1.10, £1.90. exacta: £12.30. tricast: £40.04. trifecta: £41.60. CSF: £10.19. Non-runner: Dance Thief.

3.48—DIAMANT DORE (B Hughes, 11-4 2nd fav) 1; Coconut Man (5-4 fav) 2; Kingsman Mail (7-2) 3. 8 ran. 17l, 1¼l. (A Keatley). Tote: £3.75; pl £1.30, £1.10, £1.50. exacta: £7.80. trifecta: £20.10. CSF: £7.03.

Jackpot: £7,633.50
Placepot: £10.50
(Race 1) 7, 1, 4; (2) 2, 1; (3) 4, 6, 1; (4) 2, 4; (5) 2, 5; (6) 10, 2, 5.
Quadpot: £10.30

NEWCASTLE: Standard

1.38—TARBAT NESS (G Mangan, 15-2) 1; Dollar's Dream (4-1) 2; Billy Bathgate (11-4 fav) 3. H'cap 8 ran. ¾l, 6½l. (J Berry). Tote: £8.50; pl £2.20, £2.00, £1.80. exacta: £44.70. tricast: £104.61. trifecta: £168.00. CSF: £38.63.

2.08—TEARDROPS (G Wood, 4-1) 1; Sibyl Charm (17-2) 2; Profit Street (9-4 fav) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 1½l, 1¼l. (R Spencer). Tote: £5.30; pl £2.40, £5.10. exacta: £46.20. trifecta: £157.10. CSF: £37.47.

2.38—MARIA DA SILVA (N Currie, 8-1) 1; Clonquest (10-3 2nd fav) 2; Somebody (8-1) 3. 11 ran. ¾l, 1¾l. (A Balding; 10-11 fav Lakota Chief). Tote: £10.00; pl £1.40, £1.50, £2.00. exacta: £55.10. trifecta: £315.50. CSF: £36.18.

3.08—AZUCENA (P Mulrennan, 4-1 jt 2nd fav) 1; Digital (7-4 fav) 2; Em Jay Kay (4-1 jt 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 6 ran. nk, hd. (S Hanlon). Tote: £5.30; pl £2.10, £1.30. exacta: £18.70. trifecta: £42.90. CSF: £11.13.

3.40—FLYING FLETCHER (S Gray, 4-1 2nd fav) 1; The Green Man (13-8 fav) 2; Bajan Bandit (8-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. ½l, shd. (R Fahey). Tote: £5.00; pl £2.40, £1.10. exacta: £12.20. trifecta: £29.80. CSF: £10.79.

4.15—HEAVENLY HEATHER (B McHugh, 2-1 2nd fav) 1; Lethal Nymph (6-4 fav) 2; Monks Dream (11-2) 3. H'cap 5 ran. 1¼l, hd. (T Waggott). Tote: £3.00; pl £1.80, £1.70. exacta: £6.80. trifecta: £18.00. CSF: £5.55.

4.45—AISLING OSCAR (C J Whiteley, 6-4 fav) 1; Wyvern (7-1) 2; Pallas Lord (5-1) 3. H'cap 6 ran. 1l, ¾l. (A Keatley). Tote: £2.50; pl £1.40, £2.40. exacta: £10.80. tricast: £41.57. trifecta: £24.70. CSF: £12.87. Non-runners: Amaysmont, Rain Cap.

Placepot: £120.80
(Race 1) 1, 4, 2; (2) 4, 1; (3) 8, 2, 5; (4) 5, 2; (5) 3, 4; (6) 1, 2,
Quadpot: £12.00

RESULTS

SOUTHWELL: Standard

4.30—SAM'S HOPE (R Kavanagh, 13-2) 1; Birkenhead (9-1) 2; Emperor's Son (15-8 fav) 3. H'cap 6 ran. 3¼l, ¾l. (Martin Dunne). Tote: £7.50; pl £2.50, £3.10. exacta: £38.70. tricast: £150.89. trifecta: £194.90. CSF: £59.36. Non-runners: Brazilian Belle, Honour Your Dreams, Hostility.

5.00—CALL GLORY (R Kavanagh, 11-8 2nd fav) 1; Laurens Dream (5-4 fav) 2; Evoluir (10-1) 3. 11 ran. ½l, 3¼l. (I Williams). Tote: £2.40; pl £1.10, £1.20, £2.00. exacta: £4.80. trifecta: £18.20. CSF: £3.54.

5.30—PINK SOCKS (P Bradley, 8-11 fav) 1; American Rose (33-1) 2; Captain Pickles (14-1) 3. 10 ran. 1¼l, 1½l. (I Williams). Tote: £1.73; pl £1.10, £6.20, £3.50. exacta: £29.90. trifecta: £317.00. CSF: £42.07.

6.00—SHIPLAKE (R Scott, 11-8 fav) 1; Secret Guest (11-2) 2; Candonomore (5-2 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 6 ran. 3¼l, 1¾l. (K P De Foy). Tote: £2.38; pl £1.40, £2.30. exacta: £11.30. trifecta: £32.30. CSF: £9.47.

6.30—GOOD EARTH (C Planas, 16-1) 1; Clover Time (10-3 2nd fav) 2; Cargin Bhui (13-8 fav) 3. H'cap 9 ran. ½l, 1¾l. (M Herrington). Tote: £18.60; pl £1.20, £1.10, £4.20. exacta: £79.70. tricast: £139.99. trifecta: £620.50. CSF: £71.83. Non-runners: Delagate This Lord, Early Release, Gustav Graves.

7.00—STARFINCH (Kaiya Fraser, 9-1) 1; Autumn Affair (11-8 fav) 2; Tabby Kat (20-1) 3. 12 ran. 1½l, 1½l. (Harry Eustace). Tote: £13.10; pl £3.20, £1.10, £4.00. exacta: £40.60. trifecta: £390.90. CSF: £21.37.

7.30—SPRING IS SPRUNG (J Hart, 22-1) 1; Fidelius (10-3 jt fav) 2; Juan Les Pins (13-2) 3. H'cap 7 ran. ¾l, 1l. (P Midgley; 10-3 jtfav Ziggy's Triton). Tote: £23.00; pl £7.40, £1.90. exacta: £135.30. trifecta: £424.30. CSF: £96.21.

8.00—CODIAK (C Rodriguez, 6-1) 1; Robusto (15-2) 2; Moon Sniper (16-1) 3. H'cap 6 ran. hd, hd. (E Bethell; 11-8 fav Charlie's Choice). Tote: £8.10; pl £3.70, £1.80. exacta: £49.70. trifecta: £277.50. CSF: £46.04.

Placepot: £55.40
(Race 1) 8, 6; (2) 1, 6, 2; (3) 1, 3, 5; (4) 4, 2; (5) 11, 12, 3; (6) 10, 3, 11;
Quadpot: £3.50

VITAL STATISTICS

IN-FORM TRAINERS (last 10 days) R Beckett 80% (3 wins and 1 places from 5 runners), A Balding 73% (6/2/11), A King 71% (3/2/7).
IN-FORM JOCKEYS E Greatrex 75% (5 wins and 4 places from 12 runners), H Crouch 67% (1/3/6), J Burke 67% (2/2/6).

11.55 BETMGM.CO.UK HANDICAP 3YO
£3,140 (Class 6) 5f 6yds (8 declared)

1 (2) 07L21-4 **ROSIEISME DARLING (13) (D)** Hayley Burton 9-9 — Harry Vigors(7) 57
2 (6) 8366O-L **GRAND ECHO (7)** M Usher 9-9 — T Heard 52
3 (4) 35L348- **HAVIN A FLYER (16) (T)** R Menzies 9-8 — P Bradley ★63
4 (7) 6LL65- **HE BANGS THE DRUMS (26)** A Watson 9-7 — H Doyle 51
5 (1) 582133- **KUIAMA (27) (D,F)** D Cunha 9-4 — Jason Watson 59
6 (8) L5L-6 **ROGUE REBELLION (13)** James Owen 9-2 — L Morris 61
7 (5) LLL4- ● **A LOTT OF KANE (34)** C Banham 9-0 — J Haynes 54
8 (3) LL5L0L- **DAWN MELODY (28)** R Cook & J Bridger 9-0 — K O'Neill 55

BLINKERS: No. 4 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 5.

SP FORECAST: 2 Kuiama, 4 Rosieisme Darling, 9-2 Rogue Rebellion, 5 A Lott Of Kane, 7 Havin A Flyer, 12 He Bangs The Drums, 20 Grand Echo, 25 Dawn Melody.

2025: Sunny Time 9-1, D Hogan 9-4 (P & J Clutterbuck), drawn (4), 8 ran.

12.25 MIDNITE BETTING APP CLASSIFIED STAKES
£3,140 (6) 5f 6yds (7)

1 (3) 63442-2 ● **COLORS OF FREEDOM (12) (C&D)** Joe Ponting 6 9-9 — K O'Neill 57
2 (7) 595L09- **COMMENDATION (107) (C&D)** Martin Dunne 4 9-9 — D Keenan 59
3 (5) 1L64-65 **FOREST GUNNER (3) (D)** P Evans 5 9-9 — S M Levey 53
4 (4) 76L78-7 **GLOBAL EFFORT (12) (D)** P McEntee 6 9-9 — Grace McEntee 53
5 (2) L34445- **NAD ALSHIBA SNOW (23)** M Murphy 4 9-9 — P Bradley ★60
6 (1) L665L7- **ROGUE ENDEAVOUR (105)** G Harris 4 9-9 — L Morris 40
7 (6) L6862-6 **SULTAN OF OJ (12)** T Faulkner 4 9-9 — R Havlin 53

VISOR: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 5, 7 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 6, 7.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Colors Of Freedom, 11-4 Nad Alshiba Snow, 3 Forest Gunner, 7 Commendation, 8 Sultan Of Oj, 14 Global Effort, 25 Rogue Endeavour.

2025: No corresponding race.

12.55 BETMGM FILLIES' NOVICE STAKES
£5,400 (4) 7f 1yds (7)

1 (5) 0- **ADA ROSE (26)** K P De Foy 3 9-2 — R Scott 56
2 (1) ● **CHAMAS** R Beckett 3 9-2 — H Crouch –
3 (6) 7- **LADY DORA MAE (73)** G Boughey 3 9-2 — P Cosgrave 72
4 (3) 625- **LOMA EXPRESS (53)** T Kent 3 9-2 — C Planas(3) 75
5 (7) 5- **LOTUS (35) (F)** E Walker 3 9-2 — L Morris ★76
6 (4) 66- **STOLE MY HEART (35)** C Cox 3 9-2 — Georgia Dobie 66
7 (2) 8- **VENTANA (145)** C Hills 3 9-2 — Jason Watson 68

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Loma Express, 3 Lotus, 4 Chamas, 5 Lady Dora Mae, 6 Ventana, 14 Stole My Heart, 20 Ada Rose.

2025: No corresponding race.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Luke Morris 10% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** G & J Moore 15% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 3.05 Graffiti (cheek pieces, tongue strap), 3.40 Captain Parma (cheek pieces), 11.55 He Bangs The Drums (blinkers), 12.25 Sultan Of Oj (cheek pieces, tongue strap). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 11.55 Kuiama. 1.25 Chilliconcarneigh. 1.55 Hardstyle. 2.30 Hint Of Humour(hcp). 3.05 Krissy(hcp). **DRAW:** Little effect. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Krissy** (3.05) 445 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 12.25 **Commendation** from Michael Keady to Martin Dunne. 12.55 **Lady Dora Mae** from J A Stack in Ireland to G Boughey, **Loma Express** from J Ferguson to T Kent. 3.05 **Chourmo** from M Gillard to Dan Horsford.

THE SCOUT

11.55 A Lott Of Kane	1.55 Hardstyle
12.25 Colors Of Freedom	2.30 Gogo Yubari
12.55 Chamas	3.05 Chourmo
1.25 Giles Glory	3.40 Captain Parma

1.25 BETMGM HANDICAP (DIV 1) 3YO
£3,140 (6) 1m 1yds (8)

1 (4) 68974-1 ● **GILES GLORY (7) (C)** J Parr 9-12(6ex) — D Keenan 59
2 (6) 85L752- **CHILLICONCARNEIGH (30)** P Evans 9-9 — S M Levey 56
3 (1) L06-L **URBAN LAW (12)** A Balding 9-8 — Jason Watson 61
4 (8) L96- **HOVE RANGER (14)** G & J Moore 9-8 — R Clutterbuck ★62
5 (2) L566- **LADY BIRGMA (50)** M Usher 9-6 — Alicia Perkins(7) 60
6 (3) 57046- **KARAKULA DANCER (122)** J Ferguson 9-2 — D Muscutt 59
7 (7) L87- **EZERA (27)** Lemos Souza 9-0 — J Dace(5) 52
8 (5) 787LL- **WILL HE SHINE (50)** A Carroll 9-0 — H Doyle 51

BLINKERS: No. 7 VISOR: No. 1 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 7 CHEEK PIECES: No. 6.

SP FORECAST: 6-5 Giles Glory, 3 Chilliconcarneigh, 6 Karakula Dancer, 8 Hove Ranger, 14 Urban Law, Ezera, 16 Lady Birgma, 50 Will He Shine.

2025: Manton Road 9-1, Luke Morris Evens Fav (G Kelleway), drawn (5), 7 ran.

1.55 BETMGM HANDICAP (DIV 2) 3YO
£3,140 (6) 1m 1yds (8)

1 (2) LL726-2 **ATHENIAN SPIRIT (7) (F)** W Knight 9-9 — L Morris ★62
2 (5) 8664- ● **HARDSTYLE (15)** G Boughey 9-9 — P Cosgrave 59
3 (6) 3537L-5 **FLYING MACS (12)** M Usher 9-8 — H Doyle 61
4 (7) 0L03L- **AKRIVOS (30)** I Williams 9-7 — P Bradley 60
5 (4) 7L4555- **SHES GOT THE BLUES (30)** A Carroll 9-3 — Myla Coppins(7) 60
6 (3) 56555-6 **LAPIDARIST (12)** D M Simcock 9-1 — J Dace(5) 54
7 (1) 9LL4-4 **CHINCHIN (12)** S C Williams 9-0 — S M Levey 55
8 (8) 9078- **OUT IN THE COLD (30)** S Pearce 9-0 — T Heard 51

CHEEK PIECES: No. 1 HOOD: No. 7.

SP FORECAST: 15-8 Hardstyle, 7-2 Athenian Spirit, 6 Akrivos, Chinchin, 7 Lapidarist, 14 Shes Got The Blues, Flying Macs, 20 Out In The Cold.

2025: Freak Encounter 9-0, William Carver(3) 4-1 (J Osborne), drawn (4), 8 ran.

LINGFIELD SKYSPORTSRACING

2.30 MAKE THE MOVE TO MIDNITE HANDICAP
£3,716 (5) 5f 6yds (7)

1 (6) 11413-2 **HINT OF HUMOUR (4) (C&D)** A Carroll 4 9-9 — R Havlin 83
2 (1) 61-8111 ● **GOGO YUBARI (3) (C&D)** A Carroll 5 9-9(15ex) — Harry Vigors(7) ★84
3 (7) 46858-5 **FAUSTUS (4) (D)** R Cook & J Bridger 8 9-7 — R Kavanagh(5) 77
4 (4) 21255-3 **BEAUMADIER (12) (D)** M Loughnane 6 9-7 — H Doyle 78
5 (5) 12243-3 **WOODHAY WHISPER (7) (F)** Jack Jones 4 9-4 — H Crouch 79
6 (3) 513L6-4 **MICK'S SPIRIT (4) (C&D)** C Allen 8 9-3 — D Keenan 79
7 (2) 81211L- **ALAFDHAL (15) (C&D)** P McEntee 8 9-0 — L Morris 77

BLINKERS: No. 3 VISOR: No. 7 TONGUE STRAP: No. 6.

SP FORECAST: 11-8 Gogo Yubari, 3 Hint Of Humour, 7 Woodhay Whisper, 8 Beaumadier, 10 Mick's Spirit, 12 Faustus, 14 Alafdhal.

2025: Master Of My Fate 4-9-6, Jason Hart 5-2 JtFav (J & S Quinn), drawn (4), 7 ran.

3.05 MIDNITE HANDICAP
£4,711 (6) 1m 2f (8)

1 (6) 38038-8 **PRIDE OF NEPAL (12) (D)** A Carroll 8 9-9 — Harry Vigors(7) 65
2 (3) 5/54450- **GRAFFITI (70)** G Brown 7 9-9 — N Currie 66
3 (2) PL121-2 **KRISSY (10) (D,F) (T)** J Goldie 5 9-8 — C Hardie ★67
4 (4) 36364-4 **PURE THEORY (6)** Stephanie Cassidy 4 9-8 — H Doyle 63
5 (5) 32L655- ● **CHOURMO (148) (D)** Dan Horsford 6 9-6 — Jason Watson 63
6 (8) 63672-5 **DUBAI HARBOUR (11) (C&D)** P Phelan 6 9-5 — P Bradley 65
7 (1) 864064- **HAVEAGOBEAU (30)** J Boyle 7 9-0 — J Dace(5) 62
8 (7) 04559/L- **ARLO'S SUNSHINE (30)** Stephanie Cassidy 9 9-0 — R Kavanagh(5) 52

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 2 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 2, 4, 8 HOOD: No. 5.

SP FORECAST: 7-4 Krissy, 4 Haveagobeau, 9-2 Dubai Harbour, 7 Chourmo, Pure Theory, 8 Pride Of Nepal, 20 Graffiti, 66 Arlo's Sunshine.

3.40 BETMGM HANDICAP
£3,716 (5) 7f 1yds (8)

1 (1) 86186-2 **HOW IMPRESSIVE (10) (C&D) (T)** H Palmer 7 9-9 — Jason Watson 83
2 (2) 233708- **THIS FARH (27) (C&D)** D Loughnane 4 9-8 — R Scott 83
3 (8) 272124- ● **CAPTAIN PARMA (54) (D,F)** James Owen 4 9-7 — P Cosgrave ★85
4 (3) 72046-8 **TADREEB (10) (C&D)** B Millman 8 9-7 — O Searle(5) 80
5 (7) 22331-6 **ME TARZAN (12) (C&D)** A Watson 4 9-6 — Harry Vigors(7) 83
6 (4) 8835- **MAXIMISING (26)** K P De Foy 4 9-5 — D Muscutt 82
7 (6) 362L2-0 **HAVANA SKY (10) (C)** E Dunlop 5 9-5 — R Havlin 84
8 (5) 2L62L2- **CRYSTAL DAGGER (14)** E Walker 4 8-13 — L Morris 82

BLINKERS: No. 5 VISOR: No. 1 TONGUE STRAP: No. 1 CHEEK PIECES: 2, 3.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 How Impressive, 4 Crystal Dagger, 5 Captain Parma, 6 Me Tarzan, 7 Tadreeb, 8 Maximising, 12 This Farh, 16 Havana Sky.

2025: Tadreeb 7-9-11, O Searle(5) 5-6 Fav (B Millman), drawn (4), 7 ran.

Play-off misery the Pitts for Rodgers as Tomlin hounded out

BY **KEITH WEBSTER**

AARON RODGERS saw his Super Bowl dream collapse before tearing a strip off TV pundits for hounding Pittsburgh Steelers head coach, Mike Tomlin.

After 19 years at the helm, Tomlin left the club last night less than 24 hours after the Steelers crashed out in the first round of the play-offs, losing 30-6 at home against the Houston Texans.

Quarterback Rodgers, who spent 18 seasons in Green Bay and two in New York, signed a year ago with the Steelers, hoping for one more shot at the big one at the age of 42.

But Houston dominated, leaving Rodgers to contemplate his future but also to rage against critics of his coach.

Moments after the defeat, Rodgers said: "When I first got in the league, there wouldn't be a conversation about whether [Mike Tomlin was] on the hot-seat.

"But the way that the league is covered now and the way that there's snap decisions and the validity given to the Twitter experts and all the experts on TV now who make it seem like they know what the hell they're talking about, to me that's an absolute joke.

"For [him] to be on the hot-seat is really apropos of where we're at as a society and a league because

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Mike T's had more success than damn near anybody in the league for the last 19, 20 years.

"More than that, though, when you have the right guy and the culture is right, you don't think about making a change.

"But there's a lot of pressure that comes from the outside and that sways decisions from time to time."

Rodgers signed largely because of Tomlin, making it less likely he will sign a new deal, but he said he will take time before deciding if he plays on or retires.

"I'm not going to make any emotional decisions," said Rodgers. "Disappointed obviously. Such a fun year. A lot of adversity but a lot of fun."

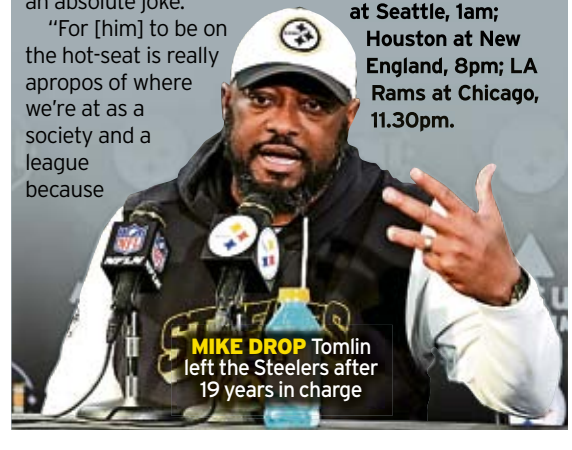
Sheldon Rankins scored one of two defensive touchdowns to send Houston into the last eight – and then revealed he already has his eyes on the Super Bowl.

"We're here for it all," Rankins said. "I won't sugarcoat it, won't dance around that topic. We're here for the whole thing."

THE LAST EIGHT

SATURDAY: Buffalo at Denver, 9.30pm.

SUNDAY: San Francisco at Seattle, 1am; Houston at New England, 8pm; LA Rams at Chicago, 11.30pm.



MIKE DROP Tomlin left the Steelers after 19 years in charge

KEMPTON RACING TV

THE SCOUT

5.30 Rising Force	7.30 Utmost Good Faith
6.00 Classic Speed	8.00 Whenthedealinsdone
6.30 Premier Cru	8.30 Argentum
7.00 Liv My Life	

5.30 UNIBET AMATEUR JOCKEYS' HANDICAP
£2,980 (Class 6) 7f (6 declared)

1 (6) 281L1-7 **UP THE ANTI (7) (C)** A Carroll 4 11-2 — Miss S Bowen 47
2 (5) 4136L-7 **VIZZAVONA LADY (12) (D)** Jack Jones 4 11-1 — Mr E Cagney 48
3 (4) 58215-6 ● **RISING FORCE (12) (D,F)** Darryll Holland 5 11-0 — Mr Henry Callan(3) 49
4 (3) 440064- **KNIGHTMARE (37)** P Evans 4 10-13 — Miss A Tucker(7) ★50
5 (2) 284057- **HALLOWED TIME (25)** M Loughnane 8 10-12 — Miss Hope Regan(7) 48
6 (1) 624950- **THE COLA BRASIL (27) (D)** D Wingrove 10 10-7 — Miss Jodie Wingrove(7) 40

VISOR: No. 6 CHEEK PIECES: No. 5.

SP FORECAST: 2 Rising Force, 5-2 Knightmare, 3 Up The Anti, 8 Vizzavona Lady, Hallowed Time, 20 The Cola Brasil.

2025: No corresponding race.

6.00 UNIBET HANDICAP
£3,140 (6) 1m (11)

1 (9) 56L702- ● **CLASSIC SPEED (35) (C&D)** Brian Toomey 6 9-9 — S D Bowen 65
2 (10) 62461-L **ADACE (12) (C&D)** D Ivory 8 9-9 — J F Egan 64
3 (6) 423141- **HOMME DE FER (23)** A Carroll 5 9-8 — W Carson 64
4 (3) LL7456- **WHISKEY SUNRISE (37)** P Phelan 4 9-6 — C Shepherd 64
5 (5) 975400- **ANGELICA K (92) (C&D)** S Hodgson 6 9-5 — A Rawlinson 64
6 (7) L2724-8 **FIRST ENCOUNTER (12) (D)** J Gallagher 5 9-3 — E Greatrex ★66
7 (11) 0L8L7-L **PAVE THE WAY (8)** M Rimell 4 9-2 — J Mitchell 63
8 (4) 247/L00- **CHERRY HILL (231) (C)** D F Davis 5 9-1 — B Ffrench-Davis(5) 41
9 (2) 43837L- **MARCHETTI (43) (C,F)** J Fox 9 9-0 — A Voikhansky 61
10 (8) 7/L5L80- **MISTER KNOCKOUT (44)** G Brown 4 9-0 — C Bishop 54
11 (1) L4L69L- **WESTON COURT (37) (D)** R Harris 5 9-0 — R Hornby 54

BLINKERS: Nos. 7, 10 VISOR: No. 6 TONGUE STRAP: No. 10 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 11.

SP FORECAST: 7-4 Homme De Fer, 9-4 Classic Speed, 13-2 Whiskey Sunrise, 7 First Encounter, 8 Adace, 12 Angelica K, 25 Marchetti, 33 Cherry Hill, 50 Others.

2025: Stella Hogan 5-9-6, Jason Watson 7-2 Fav (M Appleby), drawn (8), 14 ran.

6.30 UNIBET MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES
£5,400 (4) 1m (14)

1 (2) 424- **JAZZY BABY (83)** Kieran Burke 4 10-2 — B Loughnane ★72
2 (6) 7- **KAMAWAY (231)** E J-Houghton 4 10-2 — C Bishop 47
3 (3) 43/4- **SAFE IDEA (237) (T)** C Johnston 4 10-2 — C Shepherd 69
4 (11) **WHISPER OF MIST** A Newcombe 4 10-2 — A Rawlinson –
5 (4) 96- **ANGRY ANT (30)** J Osborne 3 8-10 — S Osborne 56
6 (5) **CHURCH WEDDING** R Beckett 3 8-10 — E Greatrex –
7 (14) 7- **DARN HOT DAME (35)** T Ward 3 8-10 — A Voikhansky 37
8 (10) L- **DELEVINGNE DREAM (42)** Harry Eustace 3 8-10 — Kaiya Fraser 25
9 (9) 98- **FLYTA (47)** M Loughnane 3 8-10 — J Mitchell 36
10 (1) 44- **LET HER GO (26) (F)** Ollie Sangster 3 8-10 — S D Bowen 55
11 (7) ● **PREMIER CRU (F)** J Fanshawe 3 8-10 — G Wood –
12 (13) **SHIRAKAWA** E J-Houghton 3 8-10 — C Hutchinson –
13 (12) 5 **SONG OF THE STARS (13)** J Ferguson 3 8-10 — J Peate 49
14 (8) 5- **VIRTUE CHASTITY (70)** A Perrett 3 8-10 — R Hornby 58

TONGUE STRAP: No. 9.

SP FORECAST: 3 Church Wedding, 9-2 Jazzy Baby, 5 Let Her Go, 11-2 Safe Idea, 12 Virtue Chastity, Premier Cru, Angry Ant, 14 Shirakawa, 16 Others.

2025: Purple Rainbow 3-8-10, Tom Marquand 5-6 Fav (W Haggas), drawn (4), 9 ran.

7.00 UNIBET FILLIES' HANDICAP
£4,187 (5) 1m (8)

1 (4) 220734- **MANDANA (33) (D,F)** James Owen 4 9-9 — S Osborne 73
2 (7) 754262- ● **LIV MY LIFE (15)** S C Williams 5 9-7 — M Ghiani 77
3 (1) 26072L- **GHAIYYATH PARK (15)** A Wintle 4 9-5 — F Marsh 76
4 (5) 5237- **LEESON STREET (15)** G Boughey 4 9-3 — B Loughnane 76
5 (6) 366134- **BERNING HOT (123)** M Attwater 4 9-2 — W Carson 73
6 (3) 4L536-2 **MAID IN CHELSEA (7) (F)** E J-Houghton 5 9-2 — C Bishop ★78
7 (2) 1/09L84- **CALAXY (28)** T Dascombe 4 9-1 — A Rawlinson 74
8 (8) 24/6IL4- **GRAND CITADEL (114)** M Fenton (IRE) 5 8-12 — G Wood 76

TONGUE STRAP: No. 4 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 4, 6, 7 HOOD: No. 1.

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Maid In Chelsea, 7-2 Liv My Life, 4 Mandana, 6 Grand Citadel, 8 Calaxy, 10 Leeson Street, 14 Berning Hot, Ghaiyyath Park.

2025: Gaiety Musical 4-9-9, Richard Kingscote 4-1 (P Evans), drawn (4), 9 ran.

7.30 UNIBET HANDICAP 3YO
£6,281 (4) 1m (4)

1 (2) 3210- **TRY STORM CAT (166) (F) (T)** C Johnston 9-9 — C Shepherd 81
2 (3) 815L1- **ILLY'S ROO (27) (F)** J Channon 9-2 — G Bass 82
3 (4) 220- **RITAAL (26)** W Muir & C Grassick 9-1 — L Edmunds 81
4 (1) 771- ● **UTMOST GOOD FAITH (114)** G Boughey 9-1 — B Loughnane ★86

HOOD: No. 4.

SP FORECAST: 5-4 Try Storm Cat, 3 Illy's Roo, Utmost Good Faith, 11-2 Ritaal.

2025: Molveno 9-6, Marco Ghiani 2-1 (M Botti), drawn (5), 4 ran.

8.00 UNIBET SAFER GAMBLING HANDICAP
£6,281 (4) 6f (8)

1 (2) 671/L98- **MEDIA SHOOTER (15) (C&D)** James Owen 5 9-11 — S D Bowen 75
2 (6) 08L41-5 **BUCCABAY (13) (C&D,F)** E J-Houghton 6 9-10 — E Greatrex 88
3 (7) 4141L-2 **NO RETURN (7) (D) (T)** C Johnston 4 9-9 — C Shepherd 89
4 (4) 311685- **ULTRAMARINE (116) (C,D)** P Evans 7 9-9 — B Loughnane 87
5 (8) 264L89- **AL BAREZ (98) (C&D)** Tom Clover 7 9-6 — J Mitchell ★90
6 (1) 654439- **MISSION COMMAND (83)** J Candlish 4 9-6 — G Wood 87
7 (3) 2/11166- ● **WHENTHEDEALINSDONE (37) (D)** R Teal 8 9-3 — S Osborne 87
8 (5) 521570- **SERENITY DREAM (23) (C,D)** A Carroll 5 8-11 — Jack Doughty 87

TONGUE STRAP: No. 6 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 7, 8.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Buccabay, 11-4 No Return, 5 Whenthedealinsdone, 7 Mission Command, 8 Serenity Dream, 10 Media Shooter, 14 Al Barez, 16 Ultramarine.

2025: No corresponding race.

8.30 UNIBET'S SMARTVIEW RACECARDS H'CAP
£3,140 (6) 1m 3f 219yds (13)

1 (7) L5483-5 **SISTERANDBROTHER (10) (D,F)** S A Harris 8 9-9 — A Rawlinson 61
2 (9) 622L87- **GUINNESS LAD (18)** N Mulholland 6 9-9 — Millie Wonnacott(5) ★65
3 (12) 067/5- **HIGH FAVOUR (28)** C Poulton 4 9-9 — J Mitchell 54
4 (3) 5569- **NYMPHAEA (54)** J Candlish 4 9-9 — G Wood 56
5 (1) L9384/5- **BUG BOY (123) (C,D)** A Newcombe 10 9-7 — Taryn Langley(5) 55
6 (5) L48135- **ENDOFASTORM (72) (D)** Joe Ponting 7 9-6 — R Hornby 59
7 (2) L/600- **MY O MY (30)** S Lycett 4 9-6 — C Shepherd 56
8 (10) 44075-1 **DUCHESS (10)** J Berry 7 9-6(4ex) — G Mangan 60
9 (13) L64363- ● **ARGENTUM (164)** M Crawley 4 9-3 — S Osborne 61
10 (6) 5L65L- **DANCE NO MORE (225)** Charlie Pike 4 9-3 — E Greatrex 52
11 (4) 99L08-2 **LAWMANS BLIS (8) (D)** S A Harris 8 9-3 — L Edmunds 62
12 (11) 0LL- **DEFERRED INTEREST (J30)** N Mulholland 5 9-2 — S D Bowen 45
13 (8) LL80-3 **KARISMATIQUE (10)** J S Moore 4 8-13 — Isobelle Chalmers(7) 58

BLINKERS: No. 13 TONGUE STRAP: No. 8 CHEEK PIECES: No. 1 HOOD: No. 2.

SP FORECAST: 4 Duchess, 5 Argentum, Sisterandbrother, 6 Karismatique, 10 Lawmans Blis, 12 Bug Boy, High Favour, 14 Others.

2025: No corresponding race.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard. Right Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Jack Mitchell 15% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** R Beckett 18% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 6.00 Pave The Way (blinkers), 6.30 Flyta (tongue strap), 8.30 Sisterandbrother (cheek pieces). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 5.30 Up The Anti(hcp). **DRAW:** No advantage. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Grand Citadel** (7.00) Ireland; **Safe Idea** (6.30), **Try Storm Cat** (7.30), **No Return** (8.00) 245 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 5.30 **Knightmare** from D Cunha to P Evans. 7.00 **Ghaiyyath Park** from M Appleby to A Wintle, **Grand Citadel** from Hayley Burton to M Fenton. 7.30 **Utmost Good Faith** from J A Stack in Ireland to G Boughey. 8.30 **Dance No More** from P Attwater to Charlie Pike.

BEST OF FAIRYHOUSE RTV

12.45 TOTE GUARANTEE HURDLE 4YO
€10,200) 2m (8 declared)

1 1 **MACHO MAN (105)** W P Mullins 11-5 — P Townend –
2 1 ● **PROACTIF (123)** W P Mullins 11-5 — M P Walsh –
3 116 **QUINTA DO LAGO (19)** J Harrington 11-5 — D Meyler 129
4 2333 **COMBS (16)** G Elliott 11-0 — K P Healy(7) ★134
5 7L **FAR ECLIPSE (18)** G Cromwell 11-0 — K Buckley 94
6 091 **IT'S BOBSLED TIME (30)** Richard Morrissey 11-0 — M Kenneally(7) 114
7 3 **MUNSIF (18)** C Byrnes 11-0 — P Byrnes 119
8 4U7 **IN MY TEENS (19)** G Cromwell 10-7 — S D Torrens 120

TONGUE STRAP: No. 4 CHEEK PIECES: No. 4 HOOD: Nos. 7, 8.

SP FORECAST: 11-8 Macho Man, 7-4 Proactif, 5 Munsif, 8 Quinta Do Lago, 10 Combs, 33 In My Teens, 50 It's Bobsled Time, 150 Far Eclipse.

2025: Bacchanalian 11-0, Sean O'Keeffe 4-5 Fav (D Queally), 6 ran.

1.15 THE TOTE APP MARES MAIDEN HURDLE
€7,200 2m 2f 55yds (13)

1 1 **ALLITERATION (80)** J P Dempsey 5 11-7 — K M Donoghue –
2 **ANNIE'S BELLE** C O'Connell 5 11-7 — James Smith(5) –
3 1111-12 ● **BAMBINO FEVER (30)** W P Mullins 6 11-7 — P Townend ★131
4 L- **CASTLEROCK LADY (394)** P Downey 7 11-7 — P M O'Brien(5) –
5 4 **CORNELIENNE (30)** J P O'Brien 5 11-7 — M P Walsh 114
6 F0 **FAMILY GETAWAY (30)** G Elliott 5 11-7 — J W Kennedy 52
7 P **LADY VICTRIX (220)** P W Flynn 6 11-7 — Ben Kennedy(7) –
8 4-L69 **LITTLE IVY (19)** Peter Fahey 6 11-7 — S Ewing 87
9 311-3 **MISS DOYENNE (19)** H De Bromhead 6 11-7 — D J O'Keeffe 122
10 865 **MISS GEORGINA (48)** Andrew Lee 6 11-7 — J Shinnick(3) 97
11 80 **ODE TO JOY (66)** W J McLernon 6 11-7 — Liam McKenna(5) –
12 0 **SCATHACH (19)** R O'Sullivan 6 11-7 — D Meyler 79
13 8L **TELLMEMAMEMA (25)** E Buckley 6 11-7 — K Buckley 91

TONGUE STRAP: No. 2 HOOD: No. 8.

SP FORECAST: 2-11 Bambino Fever, 11-2 Cornelienne, 13-2 Miss Doyenne, 14 Alliteration, 20 Family Getaway, 100 Little Ivy, Miss Georgina, Scathach, 150 Others.

2025: No corresponding race.

1.45 TOTE ALWAYS SP HANDICAP HURDLE
€9,600 3m (10)

1 123F0-9 **MINELLA SIXO (166) (C)** G Elliott 7 12-1 — P Cleary(7) 99
2 10-6P4L **NOBLE BIRTH (18)** G Cromwell 9 11-7 — K M Donoghue 127
3 711136 **BAL KAUTO (73)** D Queally 9 11-2 — M Kenneally(7) 129
4 23/2310- **FIND A FORTUNE (333) (C)** G Elliott 9 11-0 — J W Kennedy 132
5 1314-P8 **VERDANT PLACE (31) (D)** P T Foley 8 10-12 — S D Torrens –
6 2-62151 **FOUND A DIAMOND (31)** R O'Sullivan 6 10-10 — Shane Markey(7) 135
7 043P-31 **THE LOVELY MAN (31)** G Cromwell 7 10-10 — E Staples(5) –
8 213-845 ● **DIPPEDINMOONLIGHT (19)** E Mullins 6 10-9 — D Meyler 125
9 333464 **FROM THE ASHES (17)** C Byrnes 9 10-6 — P Byrnes 134
10 35-568U **YOUR HONOR (16)** J Nash 7 10-6 — D Gilligan ★138

BLINKERS: No. 10 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 3, 7 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 5, 6, 9 HOOD: No. 3.

SP FORECAST: 3 Found A Diamond, 4 Dippedinmoonlight, 9-2 The Lovely Man, 6 Bal Kauto, From The Ashes, 12 Find A Fortune, Noble Birth, 14 Others.

2025: King Alexander 7-11-12, Paul Townend 15-8 Fav (W P Mullins), 8 ran.

THE SCOUT

12.45 Proactif	2.50 Karoline Banbou
1.15 Bambino Fever	3.25 Miss Pronunciation
1.45 Dippedinmoonlight	4.00 The Wager
2.15 Western Diego	

2.15 DAN & JOAN MOORE HANDICAP CHASE (G3)
€60,000 2m 1f 30yds (12)

1 33-21L3 **BLOOD DESTINY (102)** W P Mullins 7 11-12 — P Townend ★159
2 22L4-L2 **TOUCH ME NOT (46)** G Elliott 7 11-11 — James Smith(5) 156
3 12/13-FL **INTHEPOCKET (39)** H De Bromhead 9 11-9 — M P Walsh 108
4 22P-P2P **TULLYHILL (39)** W P Mullins 8 11-3 — D Mullins 147
5 04-P356 **PATH D'OROUX (18)** G Cromwell 9 11-2 — K Buckley 158
6 171-077 **THE OTHER MOZZIE (38) (D)** G Cromwell 7 11-2 — C Stone-Walsh 156
7 5PP231 **DRUMGILL (46) (C&D)** J P Ryan 7 10-11 — M Kenneally(7) 152
8 1383-0L **MIDNIGHT IT IS (46) (C&D)** G Cromwell 10 10-9 — S W Flanagan 157
9 08-5B59 **THE KING OF PRS (19) (C&D)** G Cromwell 8 10-8 — E Staples(5) 145
10 4625-83 ● **WESTERN DIEGO (46)** W P Mullins 9 10-4 — B Hayes 157
11 256574 **ST FAZ (25) (D)** G Elliott 6 10-0 — S Ewing 154
12 2F-4589 **MORE COKO (46)** W P Mullins 6 10-0 — Sean Cleary-Farrell(7) 154

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 4, 9, 11 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 6, 11 HOOD: 10, 12.

SP FORECAST: 7-2 Touch Me Not, 4 Western Diego, 9-2 Blood Destiny, 7 Inthepocket, 8 Drumgill, 10 The King Of Prs, 12 Tullyhill, 14 Others.

2025: The King Of Prs 7-10-4, C Stone-Walsh(5) 11-2 (G Cromwell), 12 ran.

2.50 IRISH STALLION FARMS BEGINNERS CHASE
€9,300 2m 1f 30yds (8)

1 3/2129-8 **DR EGGMAN (54)** W P Mullins 8 11-12 — D Mullins 91
2 6/61264- **JINXS LINK (354)** M Rice 10 11-12 — James Smith(5) –
3 42-4542 **KOORI STAR (39)** Peter Fahey 8 11-12 — D Gilligan 116
4 254-000 **PARK OF KINGS (39)** P Nolan 8 11-12 — C Stone-Walsh 94
5 LP310-L **PORT JOULAIN (34)** W P Mullins 7 11-12 — P Townend 85
6 40-0 **RELIABLE PRINCE (38)** E Bolger 6 11-12 — Charlie O'Dwyer(5) –
7 412900 **STUNTMAN STEVE (110)** G Cromwell 7 11-12 — K M Donoghue –
8 2146-72 ● **KAROLINE BANBOU (32)** W P Mullins 6 11-5 — M P Walsh ★138

SP FORECAST: 4-6 Karoline Banbou, 3 Port Joulain, 13-2 Koori Star, 10 Dr Eggman, 14 Stuntman Steve, 50 Reliable Prince, Park Of Kings, 66 Jinxs Link.

2025: Mistergif 6-11-12, J J Slevin 7-2 (W P Mullins), 12 ran.

3.25 IRISH STALLION FARMS RATED NOVICE CHASE
€11,100 2m 5f 150yds (9)

1 152/2-LF **CHOCCABLOC (19)** A McNamara 8 12-0 — B Hayes 102
2 632761 **JACOVEC CAVERN (67)** P Hennessy 7 12-0 — R J Condon(5) 119
3 5F35-34 ● **MISS PRONUNCIATION (46)** P Roche 9 11-13 — M P Walsh 121
4 769-1P7 **CASTLE FIELD BOY (31) (C)** P T Foley 10 11-12 — E Staples(5) 121
5 1-52265 **DARCY'S FRIEND (52)** E Mullins 7 11-11 — D Meyler 120
6 35U967 **ME WEE BONNIE LASS (32)** G Cromwell 7 11-10 — K M Donoghue ★123
7 B2-17P3 **BEGGARS ROCK (11)** G Elliott 7 11-9 — K Sexton 120
8 68341-4 **NELSON COUNTY (52)** R O'Sullivan 6 11-9 — D Gilligan 122
9 806-LU9 **ATTABOYARCHIE (14)** K Thornton 9 10-13 — Miss E J Sweeney(7) 105

BLINKERS: No. 7 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 3, 4 HOOD: No. 3.

SP FORECAST: 3 Miss Pronunciation, 7-2 Choccabloc, 4 Jacovec Cavern, 5 Beggars Rock, 8 Darcy's Friend, 10 Me Wee Bonnie Lass, 14 Others.

2025: Noble Birth 8-11-10, Keith Donoghue 11-4 Fav (G Cromwell), 9 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Yielding. Right Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Paul Townend 37% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** W P Mullins 24% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 4.00 Clonsast (hood). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 1.15 Bambino Fever. 1.45 Bal Kauto(hcp ch). 2.15 Inthepocket(hcp ch). 2.50 Karoline Banbou. 3.25 Beggars Rock(hcp ch), Darcy's Friend(hcp hdl), Miss Pronunciation(hcp ch). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Miss Georgina** (1.15) Ireland; **It's Bobsled Time** (12.45) 113 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 12.45 **Macho Man** from Gab Leenders to W P Mullins, **Proactif** from Mme D Mele in France to W P Mullins. 1.15 **Lady Victrix** from Maurice Ahern to P W Flynn. 4.00 **Clonsast** from P J Flood to P Flood, **Detroit Maverick** from C Bowe in Ireland to G Elliott, **The Wager** from P M J Doyle to W P Mullins.

BIG DRAW FOR TOUR
Koepka's exit from LIV is a coup for the PGA Tour

TIME TO LIVE AND LET LIV?

BY **NEIL McLEMAN**

Former LIV Golf star Brooks Koepka is returning to the PGA Tour this month without serving a ban thanks to a new rule designed to also lure back other big names, such as Bryson DeChambeau and Jon Rahm. How does it work - and what will it mean for the future of golf?

BROOKS KOEPKA

The five-time Major winner last played on the PGA Tour in 2022 before joining LIV Golf. The Netflix Full Swing series showed his battle with injuries and he feared his competitive career was over.

He banked an estimated $125million signing on fee and earned another $45m on the course. But his form deteriorated in the Majors and he missed the cut in three of the four last year. He announced he would not see out the final year of his LIV Golf contract on December 23, claiming he wanted to spend more time with his family. That decision may mean he has to pay back some money to LIV Golf.

WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED?

PGA Tour members were banned from the moment they teed off at any LIV Golf event. Former world No.61 Hudson Swafford was banned for five years for playing five LIV Golf events in 2022. Laurie Canter also served a one-year ban and returned to the PGA Tour last year - before rejoining LIV this season.

Three-time PGA Tour winner Swafford also took part in legal action against the PGA Tour, which Koepka did not - and the 35-year-old never made inflammatory comments during golf civil's war.

But there was - and still is - a desire from many of the PGA Tour stars who did not join LIV Golf that the players who left should be punished.

WHAT IS THE COMPROMISE?

The PGA Tour has to make money for its investors after the Strategic Sports Group invested an initial $1.5bn last year. The return of a five-time Major winner and former world No.1 adds interest and money. Even other players, who own part of the Tour through the PGA Tour Player Equity Program, could see a better return on their investment.

So a balancing act is needed - to get Koepka straight back while also penalising him. He will have to pay $5m to charity, will not be eligible for PGA Tour Player Equity Program for the next five years and will not receive FedEx Cup bonus money this season. He also cannot play in big-money signature events, unless he qualifies. It is thought it will cost Koepka $50m-85m, although that is far less than he has earned from LIV.

WHO ELSE CAN JOIN?

The new Returning Member Program allows the immediate return of stars who have won a Major or The Players since 2022 who have been away from the PGA Tour for more than two years. This is specifically targeted at the big names who are vital for LIV Golf – Bryson DeChambeau, Jon Rahm and Cam Smith. It does not apply to Tyrrell Hatton or Joaquin Niemann.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

New PGA Tour CEO Brian Rolapp announced the offer is available until February 2. The new LIV Golf season starts in Riyadh on February 4.

Double US Open winner DeChambeau, who has a huge social media following, is entering the final year of his LIV contract and now has great leverage to negotiate a new contract. Rahm only joined for the 2024 season and would likely need to pay back - or sacrifice - a huge amount to return to the PGA Tour. But the new rule is a huge challenge to the Saudi-backed tour, which has failed to make any big-name signings for this season. The defection of DeChambeau would be a huge blow.

WEDGE A Rahm return would be costly

WORLD OF SPORT

Baxter a doubt for Six Nations opener

RUGBY UNION

BY **ADAM HATHAWAY**

ENGLAND prop Fin Baxter faces a race to be fit for the start of the Six Nations as he struggles to shake off a foot injury.

The front rower last saw action for Harlequins on December 14 and is not expected to play for them in the next two weeks.

England head coach Steve Borthwick names his Six Nations squad on January 23.

Baxter, 23, featured in all four of England's November Tests, but looks a doubt for their opener against Wales on February 7 and potentially beyond.

BAXTER

Harlequins interim head coach Jason Gilmore said: "I don't know in terms of return dates, but he'll feature during Six Nations. It'll just be when."

❑GLOUCESTER have signed South Africa second-row Jean Kleyn for next season after a decade at Munster.

THE BIG PICTURE

TOTAL WHITEOUT Guangpu Qi falls in the men's aerial finals at the World Cup in Lake Placid

SNOOKER

KYREN WILSON has a new lease of life following a spell of soul searching.

The 2024 world champion, 34, felt on the verge of a "mental breakdown" last month following a UK Championship defeat after his cue was ruined during routine repairs. But, after kicking off his Masters bid with a 6-2 win against Si Jiahui, he said: "I finally trust what I have got."

HARRIET DART was the only winner on a tough day for the Britons in Australian Open qualifying.

The world No.111 battled past Destanee Aiava 6-3 2-6 6-3 to get within two wins of the main draw.

She next plays Thailand's Lanlana Tararudee.

Dart posted on social media: "Such a great feeling to be back here."

TENNIS

Welsh teenager Mimi Xu went down 6-3 2-6 6-2 to Darja Vidmanova.

In the men's draw Billy Harris was beaten by Chris Rodesch 6-3 6-4.

Ryan Peniston won just two games in a loss to Roman Andres Burruchaga and Jan Choinski suffered a 6-3 6-4 defeat by Leandro Riedi.

10 to tackle

1. Which Houston Rockets NBA player reached 31,000 career points during the 117-98 win against Phoenix Suns last month?
2. **Who scored twice for Spain in the 3-0 win over Germany in the 2025 UEFA Women's Nations League Final 2025?**
3. Which two drivers won three races in succession in Formula One last season?
4. **Which Australian city has a cricket ground with a capacity of over 100,000?**
5. Whom did Cassius Clay beat to win the world heavyweight boxing championship in 1964?
6. **Which British athlete won the Olympic heptathlon in 2000?**
7. Which American tennis player beat Australia's Fred Stolle in the 1963 Wimbledon men's singles final?
8. **Which golfer became the oldest BBC Sports Personality of the Year in 1957 at the age of 44?**
9. On which island were former England rugby players Steffon and Delon Armitage born?
10. **What number is between the 15 and the 17 on a dartboard?**

RATINGS
0-3 Oh dear
4-6 Small beer
7-9 So near
10 Sporting Seer

ANSWERS: 1 Kevin Durant. 2 Claudia Pina. 3 Oscar Piastri and Max Verstappen. 4 Melbourne. 5 Sonny Liston. 6 Denise Lewis. 7 Chuck Mckinley. 8 Dai Rees. 9 Trinidad. 10 Two.

Szob's so sorry for mistake

BY **PAUL GORST**

ANDY ROBERTSON has revealed Dominik Szoboszlai apologised to his Liverpool team-mates after his "unacceptable" error against Barnsley.

Szoboszlai's stunning strike gave Arne Slot's side the lead in the FA Cup tie against the Tykes, before Jeremie Frimpong doubled their advantage at Anfield.

But the Hungary captain's attempt at a back-heel inside his own penalty area backfired, allowing Reds fan and former academy prospect Adam Phillips a simple chance to score at the Kop end.

That goal gave Barnsley renewed belief after the break before late strikes from substitutes Florian Wirtz and Hugo Ekitike sealed Liverpool passage's through to a fourth-round meeting with Brighton.

Szoboszlai was branded "disrespectful" for his showboating by visiting boss Conor Hourihane while Slot also revealed he would speak to his No.8.

And Robertson said: "Dom's been magnificent for us this season and he was again really good. He just had a lapse of concentration.

"We all said something at the time, but he realised and apologised.

"This season, we've let teams in far too many times.

"From the opening game of the season, we've done it and we've been punished at times, in terms of losing or drawing games."

FOOTBALL LATEST

- JARRAD BRANTHWAITE has returned to light training with Everton. The centre-back, who is yet to have kicked a ball for the first team this season, is in the final stages of his comeback from a serious hamstring injury sustained in pre-season.
- **STOKE have signed Gavin Bazunu on loan from Southampton until the end of the season. The keeper, 23, arrives following an injury to Viktor Johansson.**
- BIRMINGHAM'S proposed deal for Mjallby AIF winger Abdoulie Manneh has collapsed.
- **CARDIFF are closing in on a move for Everton goalkeeper Harry Tyrer, once the Bluebirds' transfer embargo is lifted.**

IT'S CARRAZY

SPENT FORSS Carrick consoles Marcus Forss as Middlesbrough's promotion bid hits the rocks

MADNESS AS FLOP STARS CALL SHOTS

BY **JEREMY CROSS**

IT MIGHT be the most shocking example of how rudderless Manchester United have become.

Clear evidence of how muddled thinking and weak leadership has reduced one of the world's biggest football clubs to rubble.

It has been revealed that in the process of appointing a new interim manager to replace the sacked Ruben Amorim, United bosses helped base their decision on the opinions of a few senior stars.

A trio of them went to director of football Jason Wilcox to make it clear there was no confidence in Ole Gunnar Solskjaer returning to Old Trafford. That Michael Carrick was the preferred choice of the dressing room and would have the backing of the squad.

How commendable and honest of them.

It's true Solskjaer wouldn't have been the right choice. He had his chance once before and made a dog's dinner of it.

But how can it be United now find themselves in the position of allowing players to dictate who manages them?

This lot haven't earned the right to have so much influence.

Those in positions of genuine power and influence at Old Trafford shouldn't be listening to – or taking notice of – a group of failing players.

If Sir Alex Ferguson's opinion now counts for little, how the heck can those belonging to certain footballers who cannot do their own jobs properly, let alone tell others what to do?

You couldn't make it up.

The squad should be told to accept whoever is chosen and focus on trying to win some matches.

But we shouldn't be surprised. Things are so bad now, United are about to have more managers this season than they've played cup ties.

Amorim hinted at how Wilcox & Co had become vulnerable to opinions of outside influences, such as pundits and former players, in the hours before he was dismissed, suggesting those who run United are not strong and independent enough to make decisions for themselves, or have a process they trust in.

Once a club finds itself in that position, the end result is the shambles United now represent.

NOT GUNNAR HAPPEN Former boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer wasn't wanted by Old Trafford stars

BUT IT JUST MIGHT WORK

Booted out by Boro yet Michael can have the last laugh in farce show at Old Trafford

THIS time last year, Michael Carrick's Middlesbrough were preparing for a trip to Portsmouth, where they would face a team that had lost five of their previous seven Championship matches.

Boro were beaten at Fratton Park and would then lose five of their next six games, a disastrous run that effectively condemned them to another campaign in the second tier.

A year on and Carrick has one of the biggest jobs in world football. To label the situation bizarre would be kind. To describe it as a farce is more accurate.

But, as the modern saying goes, it is what it is. And never mind the fact that he has only been appointed until the end of the season, the well-respected, personable Carrick has a dream role that is now his to lose.

This is no old timer popping in to help out his former club. This is no rookie stepping up from the junior teams.

Carrick is 44, approaching what some would consider to be a prime age for management.

He managed 136 games at Boro, a big and challenging club to look after.

There were some who suggested, after he was sacked around the same time as Ange Postecoglou lost his Spurs job, that Carrick would have been a good fit at Tottenham.

Essentially, Carrick failed at Middlesbrough, where a return to the Premier League is the only brief for the manager.

BY **ANDY DUNN**

But his reputation is sound. And even though a club like Manchester United should normally be demanding an established and stellar managerial name, there are instances of odd-looking appointments working well.

It is not quite the same, but who would have thought Bayern Munich would give their job to a manager who had just got Burnley relegated with a club record low of 24 points?

It has not worked out too badly for Bayern and Vincent Kompany.

Managing and coaching this elite calibre of player might suit Carrick and there is a clarity to the task ahead that should help.

United are creating plenty of scoring chances, they are carrying plenty of threat.

Converting more of those opportunities and conceding fewer goals – only the Premier League's bottom six have let in more than United – is easier said than done, but he will have excellent technical assistance from Steve Holland.

They will certainly have plenty of time to work on the training ground – United will have 17 fixtures in 19 weeks.

If United fail to finish in a Champions League spot, Carrick is out. Simple as that.

If they do get a Champions League slot, the board will have a dilemma. Fifth might be good enough and, even if it is not, fourth place should be attainable for United.

Below the top three right now, the standard is much of a muchness.

You have to go back to 2003-04 to find a team in fourth with 35 points or lower after 21 games (Liverpool's current state). Fourth and fifth places are there for the taking. It would be a commendable achievement, but not a startling one.

But the bottom line is that if Carrick manages to take this dysfunctional United into the Champions League, it will be mission accomplished and he should get the nod for next season.

Is it a farce? Yes, pretty much so. But Carrick is a sound footballing character and this could yet have a good ending.

CARRICK'S BACKROOM BOYS

STEVE HOLLAND
Former England assistant manager worked under Gareth Southgate when the Three Lions finished fourth at the 2018 World Cup and were runners-up at Euro 2021 and 2024. He was also assistant to Jose Mourinho, Antonio Conte and Guus Hiddink at Chelsea.

JONATHAN WOODGATE
Worked under Michael Carrick at Middlesbrough and was a team-mate of Manchester United's director of football Jason Wilcox at Leeds. Woodgate has experience as manager too, having spells in charge of Boro and Bournemouth.

JONNY EVANS
Left his role as Manchester United's head of loans and pathways last month but will return to Old Trafford – again. He retired as a player at the end of last season after two spells with the Red Devils, making 241 appearances.

TRAVIS BINNION
Was already part of United's coaching staff before Carrick's appointment. He has been head coach of the Under-21s since 2023, having previously been in charge of the club's U-18s.

SERIAL WINNER Michael Carrick in his Manchester United heyday

'We want best in class, always pushing for more'

FROM BACK PAGE

here; my focus is now on helping the players to reach the standards we expect at this incredible club," Carrick said.

"I have worked with a number of the players already and have obviously continued to watch the team closely in recent years, I have total belief in their talents, dedication and ability to be successful. There is still a lot to fight for this season."

He will be supported by Steve Holland, Jonathan Woodgate, Travis Binnion and Jonny Evans, while Craig Mawson remains as goalkeeping coach.

Carrick, who stepped in as caretaker manager in 2021, said: "It's an unbelievable feeling to come back.

"We want best in class. We want to be pushing boundaries, pushing limits, and always pushing for more."

He added: "We want to do a good job and play exciting football. I want to be off my seat and enjoy watching the boys play."

United bosses will look to choose a full-time manager in the summer.

Candidates being considered include England head coach Thomas Tuchel (left), Mauricio Pochettino and Carlo Ancelotti.

Paris Saint-Germain boss Enrique is also a target and will be entering the final 12 months of his PSG contract in June.

Mane in Mo's way yet again

BY **SIMON CASS**

MO SALAH and Sadio Mane last took to the pitch together as team-mates when Liverpool suffered Champions League heartbreak against Real Madrid in the 2022 final.

By then, the devastating duo had already won the lot at club level as part of a Liverpool attacking trident that also boasted Roberto Firmino.

Despite never being the best of mates, their time together at Anfield yielded a Premier League title, along with FA Cup, Carabao Cup and Champions League glory.

But on the international stage Mane holds the bragging rights, something Salah (above) will be eager to address in Tangier tonight, when Egypt take on Senegal in the Africa Cup of Nations semi-finals.

The two nations last faced off in a trio of games in 2022, as Salah was made to suffer double heartbreak in quick succession.

Senegal won the AFCON final for the first time, courtesy of a 4-2 victory on penalties, Mane scoring the decisive spot-kick before Salah could take his.

They met again the following month in a two-leg play-off to reach the 2022 World Cup.

After a 1-1 draw on aggregate, Senegal again won on a shoot-out. Salah, with laser pointers shining in his eyes, missed Egypt's first before Mane sealed the 3-1 shoot-out win.

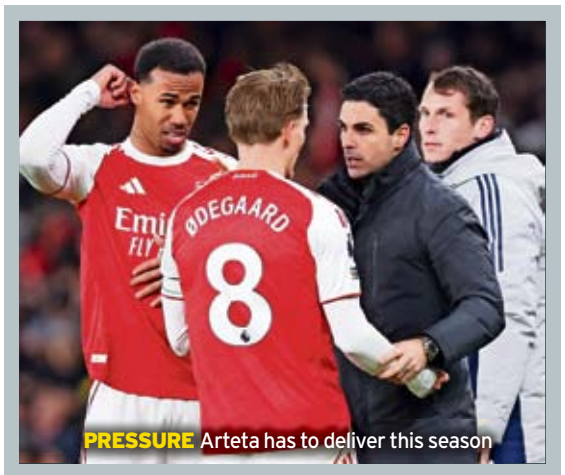
Now 33, time is running out for Salah to clinch the one big prize that is missing from his trophy-laden CV.

He has been in sparkling form at the tournament, with four goals in four appearances.

And after scoring and providing an assist in Saturday's 3-2 quarter-final win against holders Ivory Coast, the message from Salah was clear.

"Nobody, even in Egypt, wants to win this trophy more than me," he said.

But Mane will be just as determined to ensure it is Senegal who are lining up against either Nigeria or hosts Morocco in Saturday's final.



PRESSURE Arteta has to deliver this season

ART OF FOUR AS MIKEL PLOTS HIS TROPHY MISSION

BY **TOM CANTON**

MIKEL ARTETA is on a "mission" to deliver Arsenal's first major trophy in almost six years.

The Gunners are still fighting on four fronts this season and Arteta claims Carabao Cup glory can be the springboard for a first Premier League title since 2004.

Arsenal head across London to take on Chelsea, and the Spaniard is eager to banish the memory of a painful 4-0 aggregate defeat to Newcastle at the same stage last season.

He said: "Football will give you another chance.

"We've been really consistent again in the competition and now we have to knock another big team out to be in the final.

"That's the mission. Hopefully we'll learn from last year because it was painful, especially the manner in which the games went and the amount of chances we missed not to go through.

"But hopefully this year we are better and especially more efficient."

Arsenal are currently top of the table, six points clear of Manchester City and Aston Villa.

Understandably, his focus is on the matter in hand at Stamford Bridge, but Arteta admitted making it to Wembley could have a knock-on effect for their title tilt.

The Gunners boss said: "Well, the more you are involved in these kinds of games the better because it gives you a nudge.

"It brings the team a different kind of energy, and it gives you the sense that the objective is very, very close, and that's a massive motivation for everybody. We know that we are two games away from playing a final.

"We have to go game by game, and the first one is at Stamford Bridge, and we know we have a really tough opponent in front of us."

Arteta knows all about the effect winning silverware can have on a club's title ambitions, having been assistant to Pep Guardiola when City twice went on to be crowned champions after winning the League Cup.

Reflecting on that success, Arteta (with Guardiola, below) said: "When you get to these stages in the competition, you get to the final, and you go over the line and win it, it brings energy.

"It brings belief and the sense that everybody is very important and playing a part in that.

"I think it's something, when you get there and win it, everybody remembers and if not, nobody does.

"So once you get there, get the job done."

The pressure for the Gunners to end their trophy drought has never been greater but all the talk about potential silverware is not playing on Arteta's mind.

He added: "I understand that, but there's a lot of clubs that have to. So we'll try to be those."

Arsenal could be forced to field a makeshift back-line tonight with Riccardo Calafiori, Piero Hincapie and Cristhian Mosquera all out, while there are significant doubts over William Saliba's fitness.

That could see midfielder Christian Norgaard called on to play alongside Gabriel.

Angry Blues fans are used to big stars & silverware ...Rosenior is a gamble that Boehly must get right

BRIDGE THE GAP
Mikel insists new boss Rosenior has to recreate a 'winning mentality' at the Bridge

CHELSEA v ARSENAL
First leg: Stamford Bridge, KO 8pm

BACKLASH Blues fans are unhappy with Boehly and Eghbali

JOHN OBI MIKEL EXCLUSIVE

BY **JOHN CROSS**

CHELSEA legend John Obi Mikel fears the club is in danger of losing its winning mentality.

Mikel has warned Chelsea took "one step forward" under Enzo Maresca but "five steps backwards" by getting rid of him when they need experienced leaders on and off the pitch.

Blues boss Liam Rosenior, who takes charge of his first game at Stamford Bridge against Arsenal tonight, faces a huge task in winning over fans who have turned on co-owners Todd Boehly and Behdad Eghbali.

Mikel, who won two Premier League titles and the Champions League in 11 years at the club, says Boehly and Eghbali must start listening to the supporters (below) and go back to buying proven winners rather than potential.

Mikel said: "Maresca built a good squad with the players that he had – young, talented players with potential and I thought he would get more time to grow with that team.

"We've taken one step forward and five steps backwards.

"We used to have those big-name players, or those big-name coaches, and the club has decided to go in this direction which I don't know if it's a gamble.

"Liam has to create that winning mentality again. The fans are not happy, so he needs to find a way of carrying the fans along with him, creating that winning mentality.

"The owners have to listen to the fans, and know what the fans demand from them.

"The Premier League and Champions League is what we've always won. That's who we are and I'd like to see the club get back to that. Our fans are used to winning, and when they're not getting it now, that's why they're frustrated, angry and upset with how the club has been run."

Mikel believes a huge part of Chelsea's inconsistency is not having enough experienced leaders and big personalities on the pitch compared to his days at the club.

He said: "When the game was difficult and I turned around, I would see Frank Lampard behind me, John Terry next to me, Didier Drogba, Claude Makelele.

"Top players that can pull you around and say, 'OK, let's go. We know it's tough, but let's stick to it'. You need players that can tell you this on the pitch, that can coach you that on the pitch.

"Yes, the manager can tell you all that after but, on the pitch, we take responsibility. And that's what I don't see with this squad right now, and that's why the inconsistency's always there, because they win a game, they think, 'OK, we've won a game now, we're gonna relax the next two games'.

"No. It's about winning, and that's the culture of the club."

Mikel also worries that unless Chelsea compete for the Premier League or Champions League, established stars could leave. He added: "Players want to win trophies. You have the likes of Enzo Fernandez, he's a World Cup winner. Moises Caicedo also is a top player.

"They will be thinking, 'I don't want to wait another five years to win the Premier League or Champions League'.

"I hope that doesn't start putting something in their head, thinking they want to move on and go to another club, because if you keep chopping and changing, there is no stability with a manager. That affects the players.

"I hope the owners will do what's right for the club."

» Fans can follow in John Obi Mikel's footsteps and #TransfertoPixel this January by trading in their old phone – and claim up to an extra £300. Visit: store.google.com/category/phones

RISK PALMER? NO CHANCE

BY **BOBBY VINCENT**

EVEN with a trip to Wembley at stake, Liam Rosenior says it would be "crazy" to risk Cole Palmer against Arsenal tonight.

Palmer has struggled with a recurring groin injury this season, limiting the 23-year-old to just over 750 minutes in all competitions.

The England star spent three months on the sidelines before returning on December 3 but, since then, Chelsea's talisman has scored only two goals in eight appearances.

Palmer then missed Saturday's FA Cup win over Charlton with a knock, with Rosenior and the club's medical staff set to assess him before tonight's clash with the Gunners. "I had a really good, in-depth conversation with Cole," said Rosenior. "I had a really good, in-depth conversation with the medical team. We are at a stage of the season where we have another eight games in three weeks. So it would be crazy for me to risk any player in this phase of the season.

"I have faith in the group. They showed that. I made eight changes [at Charlton] and we had a good performance. I'll make more changes for Wednesday. I'll make more changes for Saturday.

"But to risk a player's health in January is a crazy thing to do if you have the ambition to be strong at the end of the season."

It seems it might be a quiet transfer window for the Blues, with Rosenior content with the squad he has at Stamford Bridge.

"I want to assess the most important players, which are the guys that are here," said the Chelsea head coach. "Normally, you get good surprises if you give people a chance. There were some good surprises against Charlton. The performance from some of the players who maybe haven't played as much this season was outstanding.

"I want to give them a chance. Sometimes the answers lie within the building and not outside."

Axel Disasi and Raheem Sterling have not been involved with the first team this season and no decision has been made on their future.

"I will have conversations with them," added Rosenior. "Raheem's had an outstanding career. I've got huge respect for him and Axel is someone I've liked for a long time.

"I haven't got on to that topic yet but I will do it in the next few days."

FEELING BLUE Palmer has endured a tough season with injuries

LET OFF Mikel avoided red

Merino's the villain after all

THE Premier League's Key Match Incidents Panel have determined Mikel Merino should have been dismissed during Arsenal's 4-1 home victory over Aston Villa on December 30.

With the Gunners leading 2-0, midfielder Merino hauled back Morgan Rogers in the 58th minute, but referee Darren England opted not to show the Spaniard a second yellow card.

In a unanimous 5-0 verdict, the panel determined Merino had "clearly stopped a promising attack by pulling the arm of Rogers, and a second caution should have been awarded".

As VAR is unable to intervene on second yellow-card incidents, Merino stayed on the pitch.

At the time, Villa claimed it should have been Merino's second booking of the match, the Spaniard having already been cautioned for a foul on Amadou Onana just before half-time.

Chelsea's Eddie dies

FORMER Chelsea player and manager Eddie McCreadie has passed away at the age of 85.

The Glasgow-born left-back, who won 23 Scotland caps in the 1960s, scored the Blues' winning goal in the 1965 League Cup final against Leicester.

He won the FA Cup with the west London side five years later, following a 2-1 extra-time victory over Leeds in a final replay at Old Trafford, having been a runner-up against Tottenham in 1967.

McCreadie made 410 appearances for Chelsea before managing the club between 1975 and 1977.

"All at Chelsea send our deepest condolences to Eddie's wife Linda and his other family and his friends," read an obituary on the club website.

CARABAO CUP

NEWCASTLE		MAN CITY
42%	POSSESSION	58%
3	SHOTS ON TARGET	4
4	SHOTS OFF TARGET	2
339	TOTAL PASSES	468
5	CORNERS	6
4	OFFSIDE	1
10	FOULS	12
0 4	CARDS	4 0

REF: Chris Kavanagh. ATT: 51,392

LINE-UPS

NEWCASTLE (4-3-3): Pope; Miley, Thiaw, Botman, Hall; Ramsey (Tonali 69), Guimaraes (Trippier 87), Joelinton; Murphy (Barnes 45), Wissa (Woltemade 69), Gordon (Elanga 69).

MAN CITY (4-1-4-1): Trafford; Nunes (Lewis 62), Khusanov, Alleyne, Ake (Ait-Nouri 88); O'Reilly (Rodri 62); Semenyo, Bernardo, Foden (Reijnders 62), Doku (Cherki 77); Haaland.

MAN OF THE MATCH
ANTOINE SEMENYO

SPECIAL OINE THE

ANTOINE SEMENYO has been a Manchester City player for less than a week – but is already proving to be a vital cog for Pep Guardiola.

NEWCASTLE	0
MANCHESTER CITY	2

Semenyo 53, Cherki 90

Semenyo makes most of rule change to give City the edge

BY **LEE RYDER**

Semenyo signed from Bournemouth earlier this month in a deal worth £64million and scored on his debut in Saturday's 10-1 FA Cup thrashing of Exeter.

And last night he found the net again for his new side, opening the scoring at St James' Park, tapping home against the reigning Carabao Cup champions.

City have struggled to find a regular goalscorer not named Erling Haaland this season. Only Phil Foden and Tijjani Reijnders have more than two in the Premier League. Semenyo is yet to feature for City in the title race but manager Guardiola will be glad for his new signing to have already found his scoring boots.

The Ghana forward had already played for Bournemouth in the Carabao Cup this campaign, but was allowed to play for his new team due to a rule change meaning a player is permitted to play for up to two clubs in the competition in a season. He even thought he had a second of the night, neatly flicking home from a corner, but a lengthy VAR check deemed Haaland to be offside and interfering with play.

But the visitors did eventually get a second, and how crucial it might be heading to the Etihad, when Rayan Cherki scored in the dying moments.

City started fast, but Newcastle had a great opportunity to open the scoring inside five minutes. Jacob Murphy, who did not even make it to half-time after suffering a hamstring injury, found Yoane Wissa in the penalty area with a first-time cross, but the summer signing from Brentford fired over.

City were straight up the other end to threaten, but Bernardo Silva's cross fell to safety. With 15 minutes on the clock, Anthony Gordon crossed from the left, but Joelinton headed wide. The intensity levels rose on the half-hour, mark when Joelinton and Nico O'Reilly squared up, with both players shown the yellow card.

Matheus Nunes was next into referee Chris Kavanagh's notebook after a brutal challenge on Gordon eight minutes before the interval.

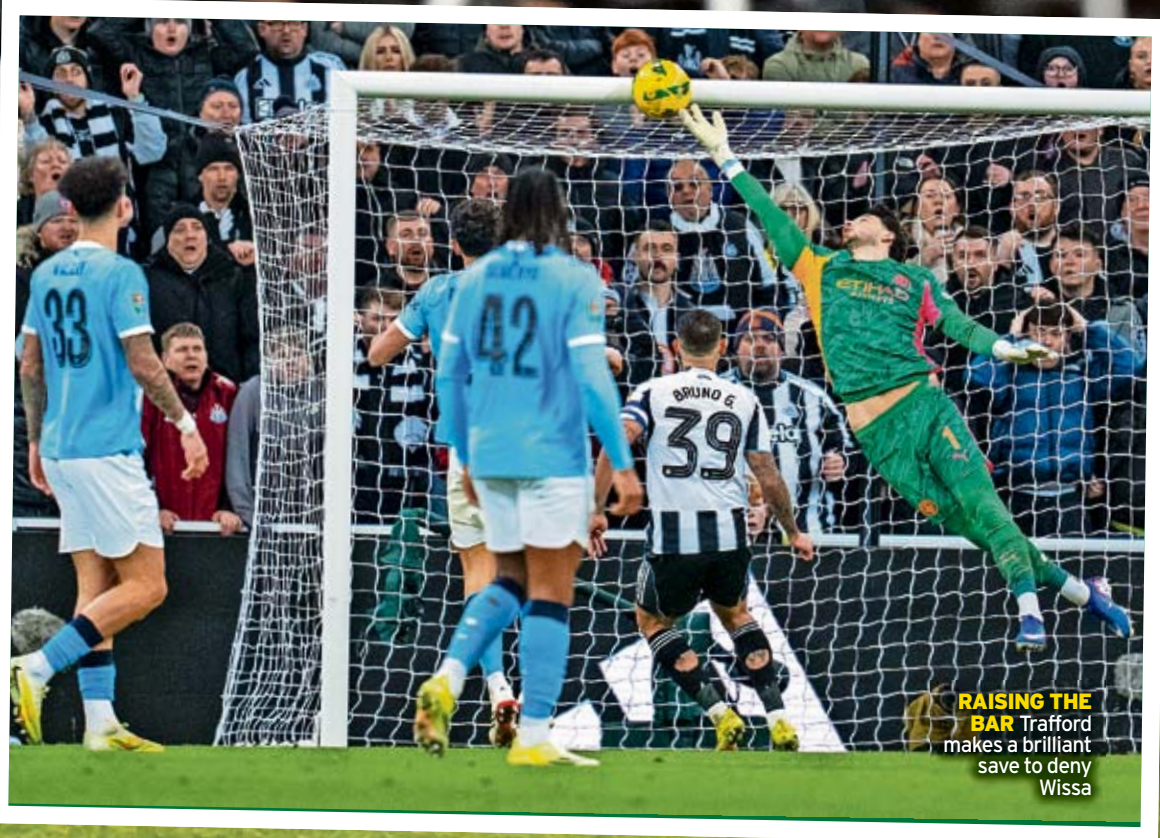
Haaland was barely in the game for City in the first 45 minutes, with the ball rarely near the Norwegian dangerman.

A succession of City corners just before the break still saw Haaland struggle to get involved, with Newcastle defending well.

Goalkeeper Nick Pope was forced into a sprawling save shortly after the

MAKING A DIFFERENCE Semenyo makes it two goals in two games since joining City

ANT ANOTHER Semenyo flicks in, but his second goal was ruled out for offside



RAISING THE BAR Trafford makes a brilliant save to deny Wissa

CHERRY ON TOP

break, when Nathan Ake's cross into the danger area fell awkwardly off Gordon.

The game began to warm up when Wissa's looping header was clawed away by James Trafford, before Bruno Guimaraes' effort on the follow up crashed off the upright.

But as Newcastle waited for Jacob Ramsey to come back on the field after a knock, the 10 men conceded. Jeremy Doku picked up the ball on the left before crossing, with Bernardo helping it on and Semenyo sweeping home from close range.

City thought they had grabbed a second on 63 minutes, when Semenyo cleverly back-heeled a corner past Pope. Yet Newcastle were handed a let-off after a long VAR review came to the conclusion that Haaland, tussling with Malick Thiaw next to Pope on the goal-line, was marginally offside.

But the decision did not seem to affect City.

Only a crucial block from Hall prevented them from adding to their tally as Bernardo turned it at goal with Newcastle hanging on a little.

Pope then had to save from Cherki as Guardiola's men piled on the pressure.

Nick Woltemade threw himself at a chance in stoppage time but, as Newcastle tried to fight back, City found the net.

Cherki swept home from Rayan Ait-Nouri's pull back and City have one foot on the Wembley turf.

NEWCASTLE have been dealt a major blow with the news that Tino Livramento will be sidelined until late March with a hamstring injury.

The full-back, 23, imped off against Bournemouth in the FA Cup to add to Newcastle's fitness issues. The Magpies already have Fabian Schar (ankle) and Dan Burn (lung) out with long-term injuries.

Losing Livramento means Newcastle have had to seriously consider their options in the transfer window, with Eddie Howe looking for back-up.

NO FLAGGING Cherki celebrates putting City two goals clear

SPORT IN BRIEF

Carabao Cup Semi-final First Leg

NEWCASTLE (0)..... 0	**MAN CITY (0)..... 2**
Att: 51,392	Semenyo 53
	Cherki 90

Vertu Trophy Third Round

BOLTON (0)..... 0	**PORT VALE (0) 1**
Att: 1,995	Waine 90
BRISTOL R (2)..... 3	**PLYMOUTH (1) 4**
Forde 21	Watts 2
Cavegn 39	Galloway 46
Thomas 61	Tolaj 49
	Pepple 90
DONCASTER (1) 3	**FLEETWOOD (0) ... 1**
Sharp 25, 52	J Davies 90
Adelakun 84	**Att: 1,506**
HUDDRSFLD (2) 3	**ROTHERHAM (0)... 0**
Alves 37	
Sorensen 41	
Ashia 86	
LUTON (1)..... 1	**SWINDON (1) 2**
Yates 7 (pen)	Wright 37
	Mabete 53
STOCKPORT (0) 2	**HARROGATE (0).... 1**
Stokes 77, 90	Cursons 49
	Att: 4,442

FA Trophy 4th rnd

TAMWORTH (0)..... 1	**ROCHDALE (1)..... 1**
Acquaye 72	Smith 45
Tamworth win 7-6 on penalties.	
FC HALIFAX (0)..... 4	**ANSTEY (0) 0**
Harris 54, 65	
Bray 63, Turner-Cooke 69	
SCUNTHORPE (0)... 3	**CLITHEROE (0) 1**
Whitehall 57	Morris 63
Ubaezuonu 80	
Leroy-Belehouan 89	
K'MINSTER (5)..... 6	**MORECAMBE (1) .. 2**
Devine 3, Obi 24	Muskwe 31 (pen)
Onanaye 28	Azeez 83
Reynolds 45, Davis 45	
Kalambayi 51	
BATH CITY (0)..... 1	**SOUTHEND (1) 3**
Alves 61	Scott-Morriss 21
	Austin 54
	Chambers-Parillon 90
EASTLEIGH (0)..... 0	**SOUTHPORT (1).... 2**
	Lavelle 44
	McKenzie 50

KDM Evolution Trophy Fourth Round

ARBROATH (1)..... 3	**EAST FIFE (0)..... 0**
Marshall 30, 50	**Att: 750**
McManus 90 (og)	
AYR (3)..... 4	**STRANRAER (1).... 1**
Main 11	Hughes 22
Dempsey 42 (pen)	**Att: 1,158**
Finney 45, Thomas 71	
PARTICK (1)..... 3	**INVERNESS (2)..... 3**
Chalmers 11	Macintyre 23
Loughrey 61	McKay 39, 84
Samuel 62	**Att: 1,370**
Inverness CT win 4-2 on penalties.	
QUEEN'S PRK (0)... 2	**FORFAR (0) 0**
Fowler 86	**Att: 338**
McLeish 90	
STIRLING (1)..... 1	**STENHSMUIR (1).. 2**
McLean 39 (pen)	Whyte 13, 67
	Att: 435
ST JOHNSTNE (1)... 2	**ROSS CNTY (0)..... 0**
McPake 18	**Att: 1,815**
Lloyd 48	

SNOOKER

WST JOHNSTONE'S PAINT MASTERS ALEXANDRA PALACE, LONDON—1st rd: K Wilson (Eng) bt J Si (Chn) 6-2.

TENNIS

ATP & WTA ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL, AUSTRALIA—Men's 1st rd: T Machac (Cze) bt J Duckworth (Aus) 6-3 6-3; R Hijikata (Aus) bt T Schoolkate (Aus) 6-4 6-4; Q Halys (Fra) bt J Fearnley (Gbr) 6-3 6-4; A Shevchenko (Kaz) bt D Dzumhur (Bih) and Herzegovina 4-6 6-4 7-5; A Vavassori (Ita) bt G Diallo (Can) 6-3 7-6 (7-4) M Fucsovics (Hun) bt E Quinn (USA) 6-4 6-4; A Vukic (Aus) bt S Tsitsipas (Gre) 7-6 (7-3) 7-6 (7-5) **Women's 1st rd:** D Shnaider (Rus) bt L Fernandez (Can) 7-5 6-3; K Birrell (Aus) bt A Potapova (Aut) 6-4 6-4; M Vondrousova (Cze) bt L Samsonova (Rus) 6-1 4-6 6-2; M Joint (Aus) bt S Kenin (USA) 7-6 (7-3) 6-4; T Valentova (Cze) bt J Ostapenko (Lat) 7-5 3-2 ret. Y Putintseva (Kaz) bt D Galfi (Hun) 6-4 6-4; K Siniakova (Cze) bt D Yastremska (Ukr) 6-0 6-1 **Women's 2nd rd:** V Mboko (Can) bt A Kalinskaya (Rus) 6-2 3-6 7-6 (8-6) M Andreeva (Rus) bt M Bouzkova (Cze) 6-3 6-1.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN QUALIFYING MELBOURNE PARK, AUSTRALIA—Men's Singles 1st qualifying round: C Rodesch (Lux) bt B Harris (Gbr) 6-3 6-4; R Burruchaga (Arg) bt R Peniston (Gbr) 6-1 6-1; L Riedi (Swi) bt J Choinski (Gbr) 6-3 6-4 **Women's Singles 1st qualifying round:** D Vidmanova (Cze) bt M Xu (Gbr) 6-3 2-6 6-2; H Dart (Gbr) bt D Aiava (Aus) 6-3 2-6 6-3.

TODAY'S DIARY

(7.45pm unless stated)

Africa Cup Of Nations Semi-Finals
Senegal v Egypt (5pm)
Nigeria v Morocco (8pm)

Carabao Cup Semi-final First Leg
Chelsea v Arsenal (8pm)
(Live on Sky Sports Main Event)

Vertu Trophy Third Round
Northampton v Walsall (7pm)

William Hill Scottish Premiership
Falkirk v Celtic
(Live on Premier Sports)
Hearts v St Mirren

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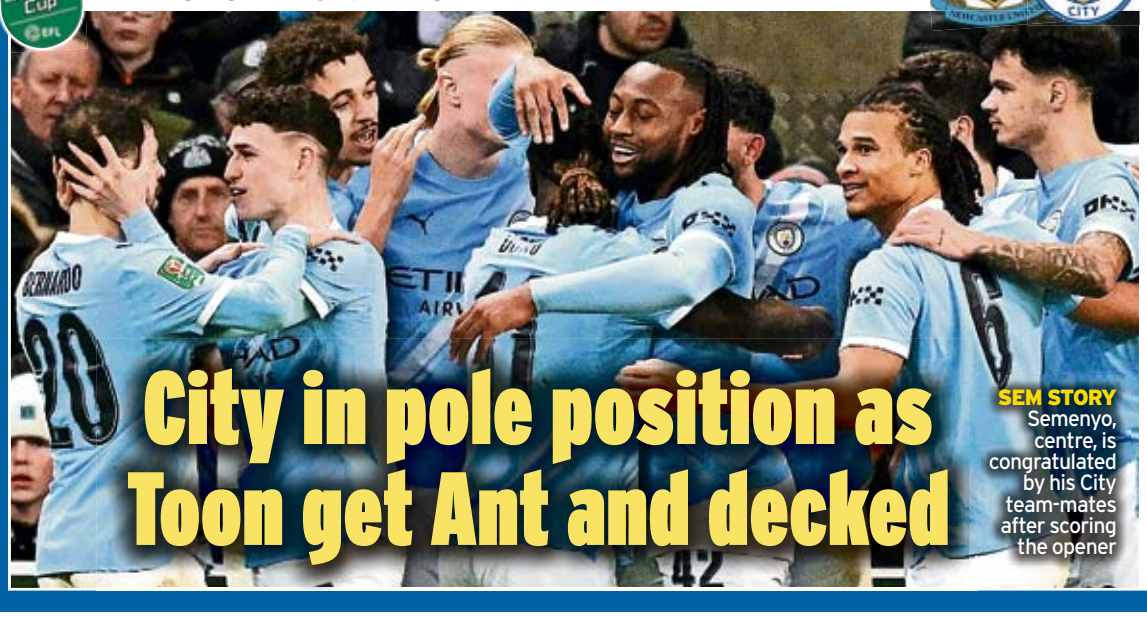
ICON OBI'S VERDICT ON BLUES

Chelsea v Arsenal preview: P56-57

Carabao Cup

NEWCASTLE 0 MAN CITY 2



City in pole position as Toon get Ant and decked

SEM STORY Semenyo, centre, is congratulated by his City team-mates after scoring the opener

BY **JOSHUA PECK**

ANTOINE SEMENYO scored again as Manchester City put one foot on Wembley Way.

City inflicted holders Newcastle's first Carabao Cup defeat in over two years with Semenyo and Rayan Cherki on target at St James' Park.

Pep Guardiola's side could have had a second when Semenyo flicked past Nick Pope but it was ruled out for offside following a lengthy VAR check.

The two sides will do it all again in the second leg in three weeks with Eddie Howe's team needing to win at the Etihad Stadium for the first time since October 2014 if they want to retain their trophy.

MATCH REPORT: PAGES 58-59

Still a lot to fight for this season insists 'believer' Carrick

SHINING EXAMPLE Carrick is aimng to bring back United's sparkle

FAITH HEALER

BY **JOSHUA PECK**

MICHAEL CARRICK insisted he has "total belief" in Manchester United's squad after taking over as head coach.

Carrick replaces the sacked Ruben Amorim and will take training today ahead of the Manchester derby on Saturday.

Red Devils chiefs have also made Luis Enrique (inset) one of their main targets in the search for a permanent boss. Carrick, who has a contract until the end of the season, said: "I know what it takes to succeed

TURN TO PAGE 55, COLUMN 1

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Puzzles

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, row, and 3x3 square includes all of the digits from one to nine. **Solutions tomorrow**

EASY

5			6		1		7	3
	4			7		2		
			9	2			8	
		6					3	7
7	1	4		3		5	9	
9	3				7	6		
				8	9			
		7		1		8	2	9
8	9		3		2			5

MEDIUM

4						9		8
	6	5	9		2	4		
9				1	3			6
	4			6			3	
		9	1			6		
	1			2			9	
8				5			6	7
		6	8		7	3		
2			6					9

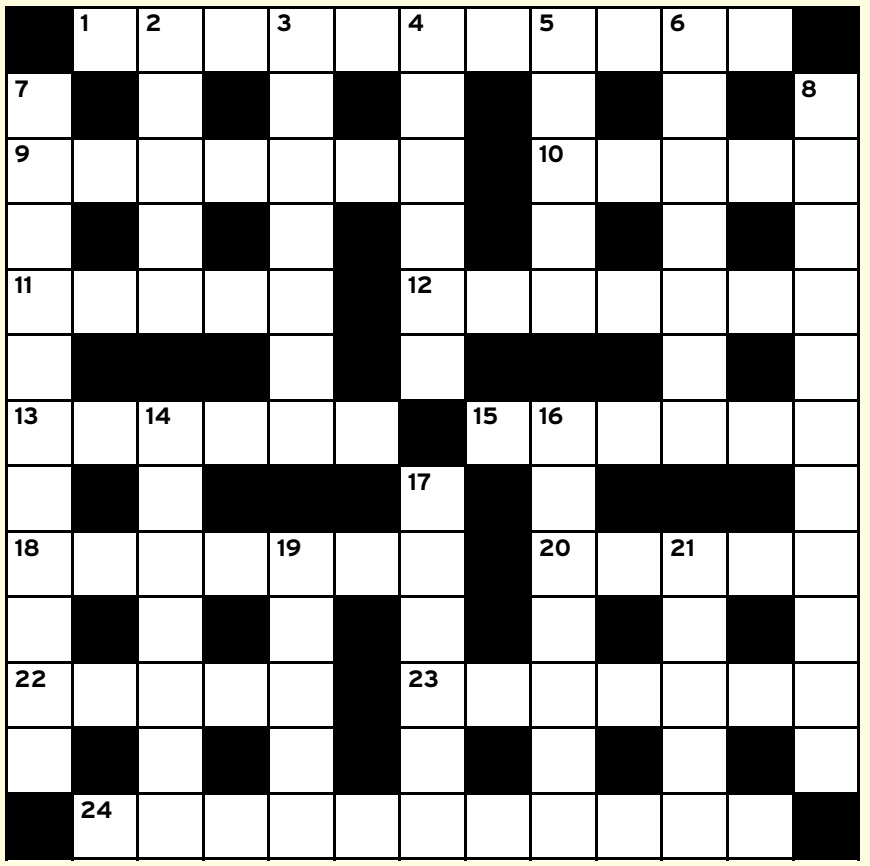
DIFFICULT

	1		3		2		5	
				8				
		2	1		7	9		
1				3				5
	8		2		1		4	
7				9				8
		9	4		5	2		
				6				
	3		7		8		9	

Extra clues: **0901 322 5609**
**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Today's solution: **0907 181 2573**
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Absolutely sure (4,7)
9 Sooner (7)
10 Wanderer (5)
11 Not concealed (5)
12 Feeling (7)
13 Stable (6)
15 Blemish (6)
18 Uniform (7)
20 Demand (5)
22 Trail (5)
23 Model (7)
24 Irish playwright (7,4)

DOWN
2 Weird (5)
3 Wandered aimlessly (7)
4 Merited (6)
5 Trunk (5)
6 Bill (7)
7 Show (11)
8 Recall (5,2,4)
14 Etch (7)
16 Stimulates (7)
17 Seemly (6)
19 Compare (5)
21 Boxing ring (5)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck on the puzzle? Call **0905 789 4188** to hear individual clues or the full solution

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. Service provider Spoke Ltd - **Helpline 0333 202 3390*

CROSS DOUBT

Target times: Average: **18 mins** Good: **14 mins** Excellent: **10 mins**

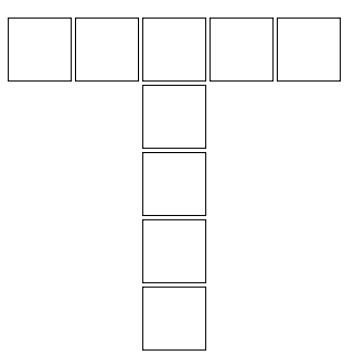
Stuck? Call for a clue
0901 322 5601
Halve your Target Time!

Today's solution
0901 322 5607
Both today's words in a moment!

**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

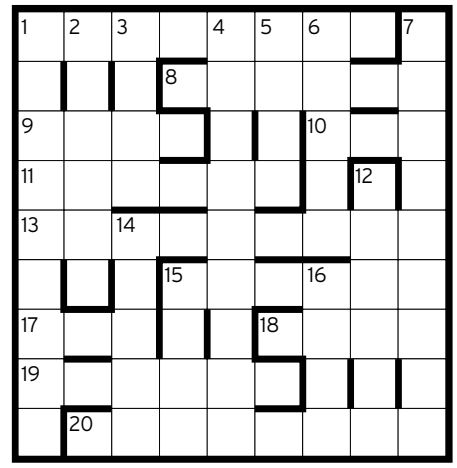
Can you make two common five-letter words from the nine letters given, using each letter only once? You can – but only if one letter features in both words in the squares on the right. There's at least one way to do it, and you have to have the right letter at the crossover – but which one is it?

See if you can find the answer within our target time. If you need help, ring our clue-line below to find out the crossover letter. Solution tomorrow



I O P P R S T T U

SMALL CROSSWORD



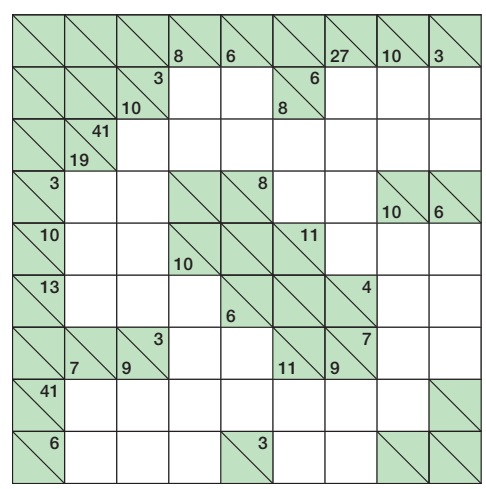
ACROSS
1 Volume (8)
8 Royal seat (6)
9 Astound (4)
10 Beer barrel (3)
11 Big striped cats (6)
13 Love rooks (anag.) (9)
15 Chess opening (6)
17 Charged particle (3)
18 French cheese (4)
19 Loud shrill cry (6)
20 Profits from gambling (8)

DOWN
1 Modify according to requirements (9)
2 Energetic (6)
3 Stopper (4)
4 Fraud (9)
5 _ Murdoch, author (4)
6 Capital of Japan (5)
7 Records (9)
12 Winter sport (6)
14 Listlessness (5)
15 Scottish valley (4)
16 Grain husks (4)

Solution tomorrow

For today's solution call:
0907 181 2582
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

KAKURO



Fill each sequence of blank squares using the numbers 1-9. Each sequence – across and down – must total the number in the shaded box at the beginning or top of each line. A number may be repeated in each line but NOT in a sequence.

Solution tomorrow

Puzzles

QUIZWORD

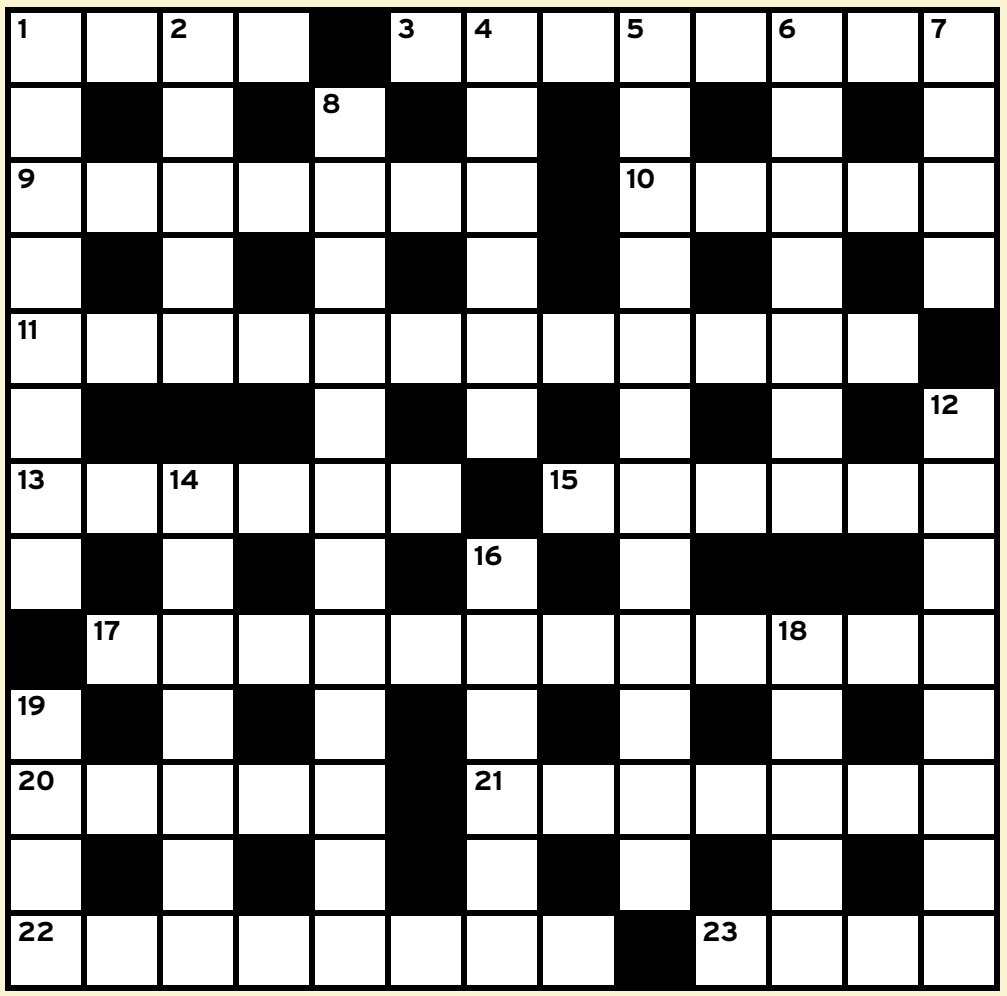
ACROSS

1 1918 novel by Wyndham Lewis (4)
3 1980 film starring Robert Redford and Yaphet Kotto (8)
9 Robert, actor who played Freddy Krueger in the film A Nightmare On Elm Street (7)
10 Unit of weight equal to one sixteenth of a pound (5)
11 Character in William Thackeray's novel Vanity Fair who marries George Osborne (6,6)
13 Johannes, German composer of the 1881 choral work Nänie (6)
15 Peninsula in the Adriatic Sea whose chief city is Pula (6)
17 & 1 Down 1988 novel by Thomas Harris (3,7,2,3,5)
20 Pier Luigi, Italian architect and engineer who codesigned the UNESCO building in Paris (5)
21 Betrothed husband of Julietta in the Shakespeare play Measure For Measure (7)
22 Village in Cornwall that is the reputed birthplace of King Arthur (8)
23 Novel by Harriet Beecher Stowe subtitled A Tale Of The Great Dismal Swamp (4)

DOWN

1 See 17 Across
2 Jacques, president of the International Olympic Committee from 2001 to 2013 (5)
4 Plant such as Raphanus sativus whose root is eaten raw in salads (6)
5 Paul Greengrass film that won the World Cinema Audience Award at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival (6,6)
6 Greg, US actor whose film roles include Richard Hoover in Little Miss Sunshine (7)
7 Carol, director of the 1949 film The Third Man (4)
8 Author of the novel The Sailor Who Fell From Grace With The Sea (5,7)
12 1976 US Masters golf champion (3,5)
14 In Greek mythology, one of the rivers in Hades over which the souls of the dead were ferried by Charon (7)
16 Almost brimless hat, popular among women in the 1920s and 1930s (6)
18 Kornelia, 1976 Olympic women's 100m and 200m freestyle swimming champion (5)
19 Unit of speed of one nautical mile per hour (4)

Solution tomorrow



Stuck on the puzzle? Call
0905 789 4190
to hear individual clues or the full solution
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*
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SAMURAI SUDOKU

In Samurai Sudoku, normal sudoku rules apply, but the 9x9 sudoku at the centre shares four of its 3x3 boxes with those of the outer sudokus.

Solution tomorrow

3						9		2
8			9	7				
		2		1		5		8
2	8		6					
	6					4		9
			7				8	
	3	4			6			
					7		3	
		8		4	1			

			9	6	2			
7						2		
8		3					6	
	5		3					7
	3	6						2
			4		8			6
	7	3						
		1						
	8	9						

				5				
						1		
				1	8	9		5

1				7	4			
4		8						
			1	5	9			

	3		9		4			
5	9							
	8		2		7			
		7		2		1		6
		5		6	9			
		9				5		7
			3	4	6			
6						3	8	9
	7						6	

			9	6	2			
7						2		
8		3					6	
	5		3					
	3	6						
			4		8			
	9					1		
	1	3						
						9	7	

				1	6	9		
				4		8		
				5	3	6		

	3		9		4			
5	9							
	8		2		7			
		7		2		1		6
		5		6	9			
		9				5		7
			3	4	6			
6						3	8	9
	7						6	

			9	6	2			
7						2		
8		3					6	
	5		3					
	3	6						
			4		8			
	9					1		
	1	3						
						9	7	

WORD BUILDER

Answer each clue so that every word contains the same letters as the previous word, plus or minus one.

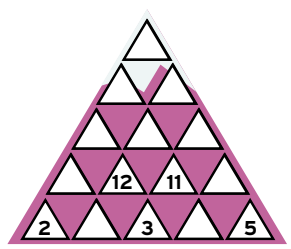
Solution tomorrow

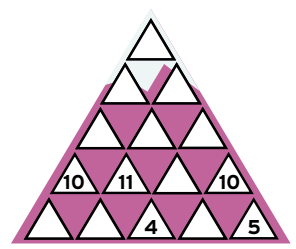
1 □□□
2 □□□□
3 □□□□□
4 □□□□□□
5 □□□□□
6 □□□□
7 □□□

1 Tree
2 Ass
3 Flower cluster
4 Clutter
5 Madagascan primate
6 Entice
7 Regret

SUMMIT UP

If the number in each triangle is the sum of the two below, what is the top number?





Solution tomorrow

QUIZWORD

Across:
6 Volapuk,
7 Great,
9 David,
10 Fitzroy,
12 Copperfield,
14 Salmonberry,
18 Pibroch,
19 Sybil,
21 Slave,
22 Bullitt.
Down:
1 Moray,
2 Casino,
3 Run,
4 Brazzi,
5 Cagoule,
8 Citroën,
11 Spinach,
13 Vanilla,
15 Morava,
16 Royale,
17 Firth,
20 Lux.

SAMURAI SUDOKU

1	9	3	6	8	7	5	4	2
2	7	4	1	5	9	8	6	3
6	5	8	4	3	2	1	7	9
3	1	7	5	6	4	9	2	8
8	6	2	7	9	1	3	5	4
5	4	9	3	2	8	7	1	6
4	3	5	8	7	6	2	9	1
7	2	6	9	1	3	4	8	5
9	8	1	2	4	5	6	3	7

				7	4	9	8	5
				5	1	8	4	6
				3	2	6	7	1

2	3	5	6	9	8	7	2	1
3	8	6	4	2	1	5	3	6
1	4	9	8	5	2	3	1	6
9	6	4	3	8	5	2	7	1
4	5	3	6	2	7	1	9	8
6	2	7	1	9	4	8	5	3
5	9	6	4	3	8	5	2	7
8	7	1	3	5	9	4	8	6
7	1	2	9	8	3	5	7	4

3	7	6	1	9	8	2	5	4
8	9	4	3	2	5	6	1	7
2	1	5	7	4	6	9	3	8
4	6	1	2	3	7	8	9	5
9	8	3	5	1	4	7	2	6
5	2	7	6	8	9	3	4	1
7	4	8	9	5	2	1	6	3
6	3	2	4	7	1	5	8	9
1	5	9	8	6	3	4	7	2

4	1	3	5	6	9	8	7	2
5	2	7	3	1	8	9	6	4
9	8	6	7	2	4	1	5	3
3	9	1	6	8	7	2	4	5
2	7	5	4	3	1	6	9	8
6	4	8	2	9	5	7	3	1
1	6	9	8	5	3	4	2	7
8	5	4	9	7	2	3	1	6
7	3	2	1	4	6	5	8	9

3	2	6	8	9	4	1	7	5
4	5	9	2	1	7	8	6	3
1	8	7	6	3	5	9	4	2
7	3	8	5	4	1	6	2	9
9	4	5	7	6	2	3	1	8
6	1	2	9	8	3	5	7	4

SMALL CROSSWORD

Across: 2 Isolates, **9** Obtain, **10** Oars, **11** Data, **13** Expat, **14** Intestate, **16** Nonet, **19** Erin, **20** Edge, **21** Ensign, **22** Skeleton.
Down: 1 Moodiness, **3** Strut, **4** Oast, **5** Limestone, **6** Trap, **7** Estate, **8** Statement, **12** Anorak, **15** Audio, **17** Nice, **18** Best.

ARROW-WORD

Arrow-words are like crosswords, but the clues are printed inside squares on the grid. Write your answers in the blank squares in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Solution tomorrow

WORDSEARCH

H	D	Y	V	R	U	F	S	J	I	O	N	Z	P	C
S	T	I	L	X	V	E	L	E	P	G	N	E	R	F
R	O	N	A	L	D	I	N	H	O	I	U	U	K	M
G	Y	R	N	E	H	Y	F	D	J	F	Y	G	F	G
A	M	Y	S	N	X	J	R	T	R	F	F	I	P	K
N	A	V	A	K	N	P	F	E	F	C	Z	R	D	R
O	H	N	W	N	P	A	K	E	N	B	R	D	O	I
D	K	G	P	C	O	E	M	P	L	O	Y	O	G	H
A	C	J	G	U	N	T	L	S	N	A	N	R	I	E
R	E	J	U	I	R	H	N	A	N	E	R	S	I	E
A	B	P	L	Y	E	Z	L	A	Y	I	S	A	N	J
M	S	O	L	Y	Z	D	K	Q	C	E	L	A	U	S
X	L	U	I	K	O	T	C	C	M	U	D	K	B	L
X	C	W	T	D	I	K	G	J	I	I	S	A	I	Z
W	C	W	W	E	B	E	S	T	Z	F	D	P	H	F

FOOTBALLERS

Find all the terms listed below in the grid.

Solution tomorrow

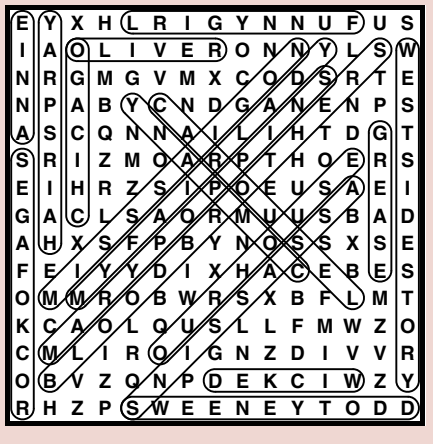
BECKHAM ● BEST ● CANTONA ● CRUYFF FIGO ● GULLIT ● HENRY ● KLINSMANN LINEKER ● MARADONA ● MESSI ● PELÉ RAUL ● RODRÍGUEZ ● RONALDINHO RONALDO ● ROONEY ● ZIDANE

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Conflict, **5** Lone, **9** Seer, **10** Incident, **11** Rapid, **12** Enamour, **13** Developmental, **18** Carousal, **19** Tear, **20** Bouilli, **21** Giddy, **22** Leer, **23** Indigent.
Down: 2 Overawe, **3** Fertile, **4** Contemplation, **6** Open out, **7** Enthral, **8** Pirate, **13** Decibel, **14** Verdure, **15** Loudly, **16** Nothing, **17** Abandon.

WORDSEARCH



ARROW-WORD

	R		L		B		P		I		A			
T	H	R	O	N	E		T	O	N	I	C			
	E		N		A	R	E	A	S		C			
G	A	D	G	E	T			R	I	P	E			
		I			E	R	R		D	I	P			
C	O	N	V	E	N	E		W	E	S	T			
	D		I			L	A	H		T		L			A
R	E	N	A	L		I		I	S	O	L	A	T	E	D
		O		A	C	C	O	M	P	L	I	C	E		A
C	A	N	A	D	A		W		U		A		E	L	M
	L	E	S		T	A	N	T	R	U	M	S		I	
	E		P	E	E	P		O		N		H	A	Z	E
A	X	E	S		R	E	S	P	E	C	T	E	D		K
		P			K	I	L	L			E	D	G	E	
M	I	N	I			D	E	B	T		R				
	L		P	I	E		A	S	K	E	D				
C	L	A	P		R	U	N		E	A	R				
	A		E	E	L		G	E	E	S	E				
A	R	I	D		Y	E	S		N	E	W				

SUDOKU EASY

3	4	1	9	8	7	5	6	2
2	6	9	3	5	4	8	7	1
7	5	8	2	6	1	9	4	3
8	1	5	6	3	9	7	2	4
9	7	3	5	4	2	1	8	6
6	2	4	1	7	8	3	5	9
5	9	7	4	1	6	2	3	8
4	8	2	7	9	3	6	1	5
1	3	6	8	2	5	4	9	7

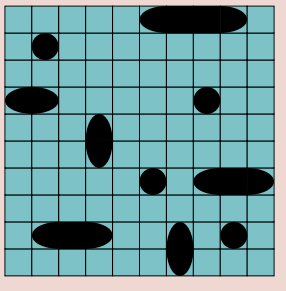
SUDOKU MEDIUM

1	5	6	9	2	4	3	8	7
3	2	4	8	1	7	5	9	6
8	7	9	3	5	6	1	4	2
6	8	1	5	4	2	7	3	9
9	4	5	6	7	3	8	2	1
2	3	7	1	9	8	4	6	5
7	1	2	4	8	9	6	5	3
4	9	3	7	6	5	2	1	8
5	6	8	2	3	1	9	7	4

SUDOKU DIFFICULT

6	4	8	5	9	3	1	7	2
5	1	7	4	8	2	9	6	3
9	3	2	7	6	1	4	8	5
7	6	9	1	5	8	2	3	4
8	2	4	6	3	9	5	1	7
3	5	1	2	4	7	6	9	8
4	7	5	3	1	6	8	2	9
2	9	6	8	7	5	3	4	1
1	8	3	9	2	4	7	5	6

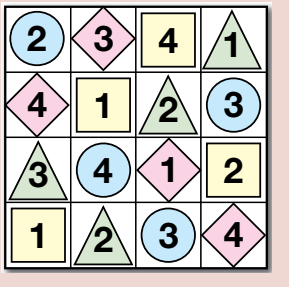
BATTLESHIPS



KAKURO

		9	2			1	4	
	2	8	1		7	2	9	
	1	5		2	1		6	1
		6	2	1		1	7	2
	2	3	1		1	2	3	
	1	4		1	2		5	1
		1	2	3		1	8	2
		7	1			2	1	

KEIJO



TARGET

DECORATOR aced, acre, acted, actor, arced, arco, cadet, cadre, card, care, cared, carer, caret, carrot, cart, carte, carted, cater, cedar, cert, coat, coated, coda, code, coder, cooed, coot, cord, cordate, core, cored, corer, corrode, cote, crate, crated, crater, creator, cred, credo, dace, decor, DECORATOR, doctor, ocrea, octad, race, raced, racer, react, reactor, record, recto, rector, redact, redactor, redcoat, taco, torc, trace, traced, tracer, trocar

THE ALPHAPUZZLE

Across: Carrot, Plaque, Wee, Rung, Odds, Hangman, Vest, Germ, Jests, Poor, Spar, Abyss, Rapt, Play, Oddball, Step, Akin, Lie, Frizzy, Detest.
Down: Viper, Amuse, Altar, Snoop, Right, Topaz, Twinge (clue), Bodily, Shy, Permit, Staked, Along, Plant, Expel, Udder, Alias, Marry.

THE ALPHABEATER

Black squares: 4, 6, 9, 12, 15, 16, 17, 20, 23, 26, 29, 32, 37, 39.
Across: Naval, Hospital, Rump, Heralded, Enjoy, Maze, Vanilla, Taxi, Myths, Bequests, Asks, Colludes, Faked. **Down:** Exit, Buck, Apron, Arm, Obviously, Gnaws, Joke, Twee, Rifle, Diplomacy, Spa, Haste, Plod, Eggs.

CROSS DOUBT

Across: MOOSE
Down: THEFT

SUMMIT UP

92 and 116

WORD BUILDER

Fin, Fine, Feign, Finger, Reign, Grin, Rig

Puzzles

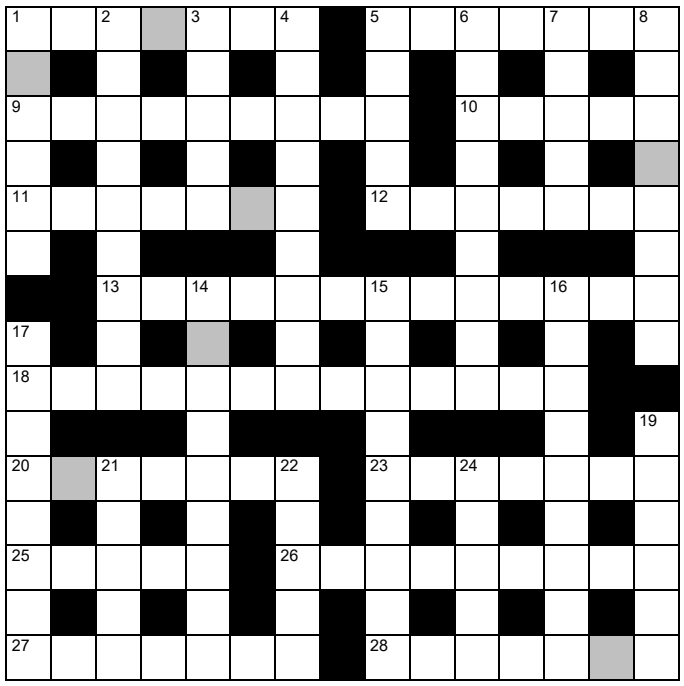
CRUSADER PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Warehouse is put back in down payment (7)
5 Appliance results in blinding start by usurer (7)
9 Again, ales drunk produce lack of pain (9)
10 Ingratiate oneself in style (5)
11 Finished with silver bearing beyond the limit (7)
12 Fruit for ruler's wife (7)
13 Girl's parent finds decorative material (6-2-5)
18 This inanimate mixture is an allergy treatment (13)
20 I am favourite to join American force (7)
23 Old king confused panel and hook (7)
25 Trophy father pursued for some tea (5)
26 Inexperienced, wandering nude around locomotive (9)
27 Scanned for every application, on the day (7)
28 Arch-enemy seems in a bad way (7)

DOWN

1 Persist at some length as a monster (6)
2 Fashion Terry a map to religious setting (6,3)
3 In the morning, soldiers return Greek character (5)
4 Sample smaller amount that's insipid (9)
5 Alloy of copper makes money (5)
6 Cute play about island trees (9)
7 Attorney takes sheep to a play (5)
8 Rabble, first and last, prone to be trustworthy (8)
14 A hat isn't used around current Polynesians (9)
15 Mostly fruit with a nut recipe for an ape (9)
16 A range or another (9)
17 Terribly avid son caught up in tennis tournament (5,3)
19 Sheffield United – they're sharp (6)
21 Daily exercise in same level (5)
22 Excellent noise (5)
24 Panic that wakes you up (5)



WIN £100 CASH

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
Read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

TO ENTER: Call **0904 161 3700** (calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge) and leave your answer and details, or text **DXCRUS** followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to **88833** (texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate). Lines close at midnight Saturday. Or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares by posting it to: Crusader Crossword, January 14, PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW. Entries must be postmarked by January 15 at the latest. For any postal enquiries, call helpline number. SP: Spoke – 0333 202 3390.
An extra day is given for postal entries during bank holidays.
● ***One weekly winner will be the first random correct entry drawn from all entry routes after the closing date of midnight Saturday. Competition runs Sunday to Saturday. The Editor's decision is final.***

NEED HELP? Call **0904 161 1609** for 5 extra clues! Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

MONDAY'S SOLUTION
ACROSS: 1 Shandy, 4 Murdered, 10 Plumage, 11 Toccata, 12 Radon, 13 Negligent, 14 General staff, 18 Up one's sleeve, 23 Supporter, 24 Bathe, 25 Open-air, 26 Dead Sea, 27 Easterly, 28 Stance. **DOWN:** 1 Superego, 2 Abundant, 3 Drawn, 5 Uptight, 6 Deceitful, 7 Reader, 8 Dearth, 9 Fennel, 15 Reprobate, 16 Jettison, 17 Delegate, 19 Natural, 20 Stride, 21 Ashore, 22 Uppers, 24 Blast. **Prizeword:** Hurdler

TARGET

T	O	N
A	T	I
G	A	I

● *The Target uses words in the main body of Chambers 21st Century Dictionary (1999 edition)*

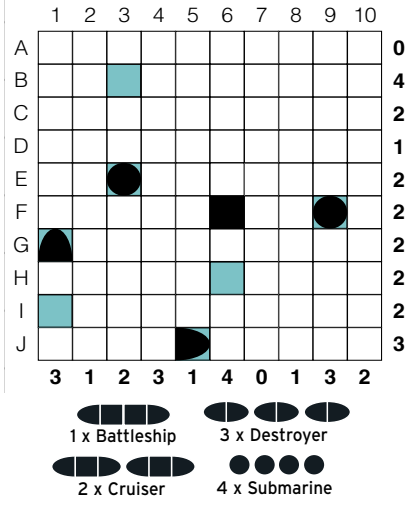
HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals. Verb forms ending in S permitted.

TODAY'S TARGET
Good 12; **very good** 18; **excellent** 24 **(or more).** Solution tomorrow

Call **0907 181 2585**
for today's Target solution
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

BATTLESHIPS

FIND where the fleet of ships shown is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.
Solution tomorrow



THE ALPHABEATER

TARGET TIME: 32 minutes

CAN you crack the Alphabeater? Each grid number represents a letter – or black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and black squares below the grid to start. The grid is 'rotationally symmetrical' – in other words, it looks the same if you turn the page upside down.
Solution tomorrow

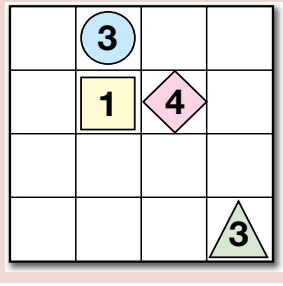
Extra letter clues
0907 181 2560
(Deduct three minutes for each extra clue letter heard)
Full solution
0907 181 2558
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

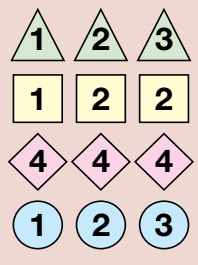
A	13	37	3	26	6	31	4	35	9	16	6	15	16
B	8	18	33	38	8	25	5	32	3	30	18	23	4
C													
D													
E	38	35	7	25	15	19	33	38	35	26	6	25	7
F	21	27	15	34	11	11	29	1	30	18	5	36	28
G													
H													
I	17	11	40	30	3	35	17	3	36	22	12	13	25
J	26	6	4	6	35	39	8	26	6	18	20	11	31
K													
L													
M	30	35	36	11	13	25	14	6	17	31	33	20	36
N	26	39	31	18	22	26	3	4	22	22	11	6	26
O													
P													
Q	18	8	5	26	5	8	15	31	15	23	24	35	5
R													
S	14	17	24	38	12	22	25	10	25	38	12	2	24
T													
U	14	4	28	25	31	1	13	35	36	4	39	35	32
V													
W	35	30	35	24	36	6	15	7	3	34	5	26	33
X													
Y	27	21	32	35	10	25	31	9	25	26	40	2	12
Z													

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32 D	33	34 W	35	36	37	38	39 C	40

● Alternatively, for six Extra Letter clues to your mobile, text **DXBEAT** to **64343.** Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.

KEIJO





Place the tiles into the grid so that four different numbers and four different shapes appear in each row and column.
Solution tomorrow

THE ALPHAPUZZLE®

Alphapuzzle® tests logic and word power. Each grid number stands for a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. Solution tomorrow
DIFFICULTY: 9/10; **TARGET:** 28 mins; **CLUE:** Particle found firstly in old nest.

A	■	12	■	2	■	2	■	3	■	25	■	25	■
B	26	2	7	1	21	25	■	7	1	1	7	3	17
C	■	22	■	3	■	12	5	18	■	11	■	7	■
D													
E	26	21	25	26	■	11	■	12	■	16	5	23	18
F	■	2	■	■	25	1	11	11	12	■	■	9	■
G													
H													
I	2	6	10	12	12	■	19	■	21	4	13	2	1
J													
K													
L													
M	5	■	■	■	7	19	2	5	23	■	■	■	2
N	4	2	8	26	1	■	25	■	9	24	2	15	11
O													
P													
Q	■	4	■	■	11	4	1	24	10	■	■	2	■
R													
S	5	20	11	24	■	5	■	21	■	14	21	1	11
T													
U	■	2	■	11	■	24	21	23	■	21	■	26	■
V													
W	25	1	24	11	11	1	■	23	7	25	17	11	6
X													
Y	■	11	■	12	■	26	■	10	■	1	■	24	■
Z													

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 L	13	
14	15	16	17 K	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	

EXTRA LETTER CLUES: 0907 181 2568*
Hear up to six Extra Letters, deduct two minutes for each clue letter heard.
FULL SOLUTION: **0907 181 2565***
ACROSS ONLY: **0907 181 2561*** / DOWN ONLY: **0907 181 2562***
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*
Alternatively, for six extra letter clues direct to your mobile, text **DXALPHA** *to* **64343.** *Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.*

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THE DAILY EXPRESS 30-SECOND CHALLENGE

TODAY'S ANSWERS: BEGINNER = 66; INTERMEDIATE = 89; ADVANCED = 48.

PLAY MORE CROSSWORDS AND GAMES AT EXPRESS.CO.UK/PUZZLES

PUZZLES SPECIAL

8 PAGES OF TANTALISING TEASERS!

PUZZLES

WORDSEARCH

Can you find all the listed iems in the grid? Words may read forwards or backwards, horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

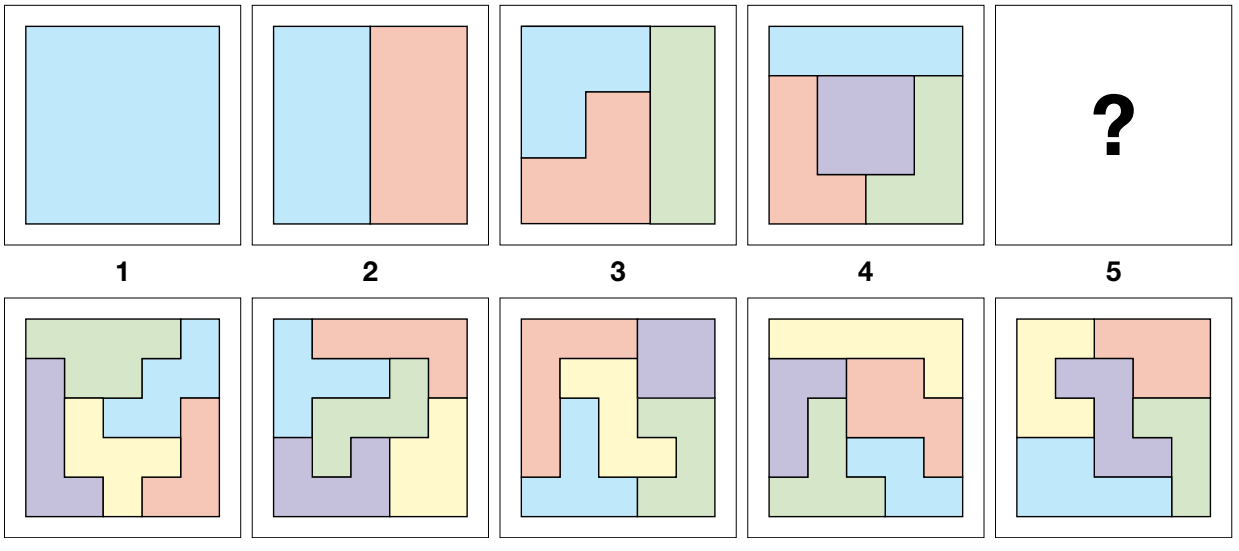
UK SPORTING VENUES

D M W A O E S T U R F M O O R L A X G
M X W I M C H E A D I N G L E Y R V W
W K Y N O L Q P G G O O D W O O D I R
S R N T D A P S P Y I V Z A C C E L B
I K U R U O R O S E B O W L N E E L O
L O U E R F N M M B B D N P N D P A E
V L R E A N F I E L D N O F I A D P D
E O A K W E L L N R R M H S G B A A G
R M O L I N E U X G K R E H T N L R B
S Y F Q T N D Y K G T K P E G E E K A
T W I C K E N H A M A O S J O W G A S
O S K I N G S H O L M E N R R M F W T
N B O D J D U Y N T L U Z J K A E H O
E P D L V A E Q A B H H L C F R C E N
S B V E I L S M I L B E R U D K I N Y
H O W A B T O C D A F W O N S E B L R
E B Q M Y C U R O P B J A V X T R E R
S Q E E I R D D D T V T S L A A O Y E
R W T O C E Y O E S S G B M J L X S W

AINTREE
ANFIELD
ASCOT
CRUCIBLE
DEEPDALE
DONINGTON
EDGBASTON
EPSOM
GOODWOOD
HEADINGLEY
HENLEY
IBROX
KINGSHOLM
LAKESIDE
LORD'S
MOLINEUX
NEWMARKET
OAKWELL
ROSE BOWL
SILVERSTONE
SOLITUDE
ST ANDREWS
THE OVAL
TURF MOOR
TWICKENHAM
VILLA PARK
WEMBLEY

PATTERN MAKER

Which one of the numbered squares on the bottom row should replace the question mark to follow the logical pattern in this sequence?



CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter. Use your knowledge of words to solve the puzzle. Two letters are given to start you off.

■	22	■	22 S	■	8	25	17	8	14	4	6	11
20	18	11	23	■	■	18	■	3	■	6	■	23
■	16	■	16 F	2	18	13	17	9	■	5	17	24
11	23	10	17	■	■	■	■	9	■	17	■	25
■	■	■	2	■	5	4	18	2	17	6	8	17
22	24	23	20	22	■	21	■	17	■	24	■	26
18	■	26	■	■	1	23	21	■	■	18	■	17
21	■	11	■	22	■	11	■	19	18	26	17	9
17	15	3	4	7	7	17	9	■	12	■	■	■
24	■	21	■	4	■	■	■	■	20	23	13	6
4	8	17	■	9	23	24	4	6	11	■	23	■
21	■	6	■	17	■	17	■	■	17	12	4	24
17	6	24	17	26	4	6	11	■	6	■	24	■

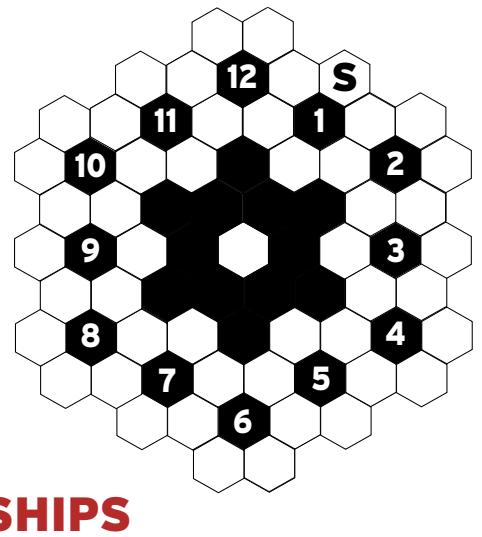
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 F	17	18	19	20	21	22 S	23	24	25	26

HONEYCOMB

All the solutions read clockwise around their numbers. The solution to clue number 1 starts from the given letter.

1 Tray
2 Bubbles
3 Keep
4 Graduates
5 Enrage
6 Patted
7 Next to
8 Sausage
9 Badly wounded
10 Run
11 Male goose
12 Extent

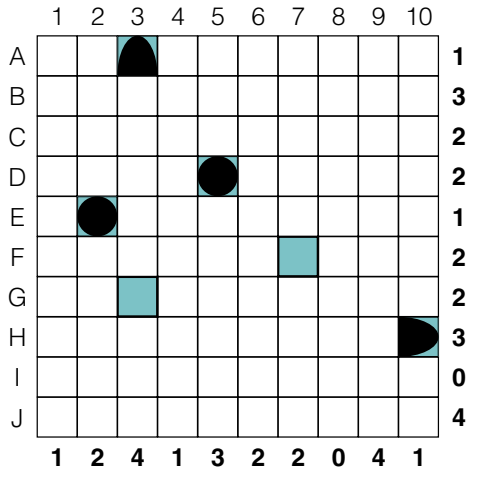


BATTLESHIPS

In Battleships, you have to find where the fleet of ships shown are hidden in the ten by ten grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.

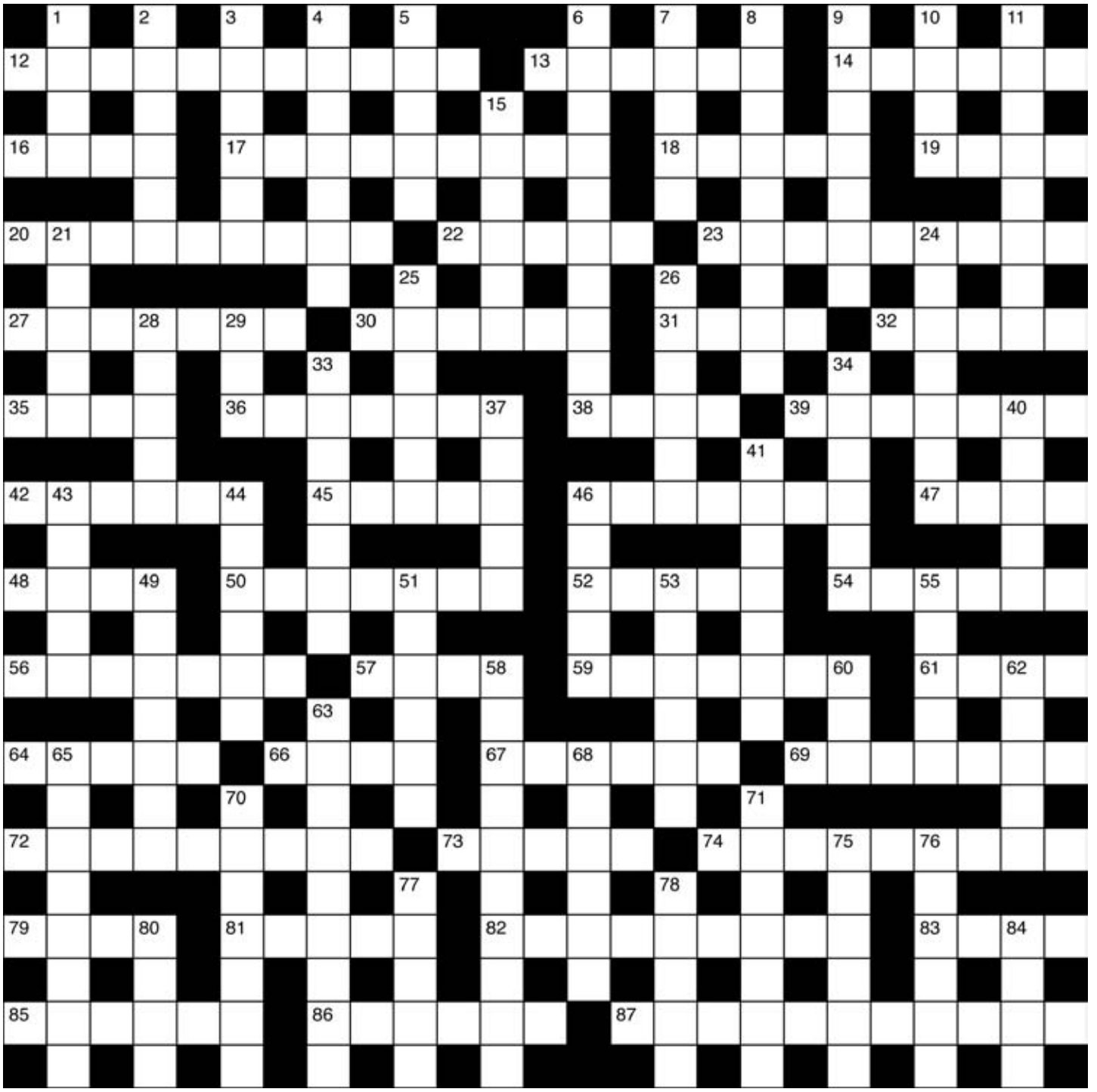
THE FLEET

1 x Battleship
2 x Cruiser
3 x Destroyer
4 x Submarine



GIANT TWO-SPEED CROSSWORD

Choose between straight and cryptic clues in this giant crossword – both sets lead to the same answers.



STRAIGHT

ACROSS

12 Mentioning (7,4)
13 Repeat (6)
14 Stood up (6)
16 La douce? (4)
17 Disgusted (6,3)
18 Female name (5)
19 List (4)
20 Very many (9)
22 Bet (5)
23 Topical (2,3,4)
27 Get rid of (7)
30 Din (6)
31 Mess (4)
32 Room (5)
35 Retain (4)
36 Praise (7)
38 Mend (4)
39 Imitation (7)
42 Tools (6)
45 Cut finely (5)
46 Stop (7)
47 Food (4)
48 Don't fail (4)
50 Foozled (7)
52 Scamp (5)
54 Determine (6)
56 Don't (7)
57 Money (4)
59 Yelled (7)
61 Sway (4)
64 Open (5)
66 Wine (4)
67 Character (6)
69 Seems (7)
72 Cert (4,5)
73 Portly (5)
74 Cold (9)
79 Crooked (4)
81 Sample (5)
82 Working out (9)
83 Desire (4)
85 Hit (6)
86 Idea (6)
87 Didn't attract (4,3,4)

DOWN

1 Animals (4)
2 Try hard (6)
3 Drop in (6)
4 Skill (7)
5 Pugilist (5)
6 Natural (10)
7 Flattens (5)
8 Sleaze (9)
9 Inspire (7)
10 Just (4)
11 Given (8)
15 Indian (6)
21 Tree (5)
24 Catching (7)
25 Excuse (6)
26 Accusation (6)
28 Managed (5)
29 Say crossly (3)
33 Plant (7)
34 Stoneless (6)
37 Tendency (5)
40 Plump (5)
41 Beats (7)
43 Set (5)
44 Yield (6)
46 Capital (5)
49 Odd (7)
51 Shed (4-2)
53 Felt (6)
55 Cut (5)
58 Little devil (4,6)
60 Plunge (3)
62 Worries (5)
63 Aware (9)
65 Game (8)
68 Bird (6)
70 Talk (7)
71 Opposes (7)
75 Furious (6)
76 Boat (6)
77 Warms (5)
78 Building (5)
80 Follow (4)
84 Cheek (4)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS

12 Mentioning one's not maintaining at its former high level (7,4)
13 Forced once again to repeat (6)
14 Stood up, are angry about (6)
16 She's lost half her hair, mum! (4)
17 Disgusted, refused to listen to any more (6,3)
18 She has some lovely diamonds (5)
19 List not going back from S to Z (4)
20 Very many; with the exception of Dracula, perhaps (9)
22 Jester to the Queen, you bet (5)
23 Isn't, when travelling east, through making headlines (2,3,4)
27 About the mark – did get rid of (7)
30 Your game or what you play it with? (6)
31 Is forced to have hot food (4)
32 Look very carefully at the room (5)
35 Observe, or see, turning (4)
36 Paul, translating, says "In French, it's praise" (7)
38 And, torn right through, mend (4)
39 Imitating the girl, go "Boo-hoo" (7)
42 Some of the tools of a card sharp? (6)
45 Cut finely and put into mine, cold (5)
46 Stop! Shut up about the figure entered! (7)
47 Scratch around for the chow (4)
48 Don't fail to give to (4)
50 Wounded when the gun went off in, had foozled it (7)
52 Feel sorry for and go back in to get scamp (5)
54 Determine, when the editor is about to cut back (6)
56 Don't strain (7)
57 Caught fleeing, has the money (4)
59 She had caught out and yelled at (7)
61 Surprise with a diamond (4)
64 Open to find the name (5)
66 Left to get a drink (4)
67 I, for instance, may go by air (6)
69 Plays the ghost on stage? (7)
72 Will have sung about their wanderings, it's a cert (4,5)
73 Not the port in "portly" (5)
74 Lacking a suit, is cold (9)
79 Crooked man given time (4)
81 Try, when I leave it, to get the seat, running (5)
82 Working out, as one forms a circle round (9)
83 After half an hour, start getting the desire (4)
85 Give the impression you'll lash out at (6)
86 Thought, on putting back into play (6)
87 Didn't attract: gave the shivers to (4,3,4)

DOWN

1 They're animals, hunny! (4)
2 With star potential and smart, try hard (6)
3 Isn't proposed, before 1.50, to drop in (6)
4 Confront the problem with skill (7)
5 Dog that's used to having scraps? (5)
6 Not influenced by, plain and simple (10)
7 The car flattens it (5)
8 Sleaze that makes us feel slightly sick (9)
9 Heartbroken, be about to get fresh inspiration (7)
10 Just as pretty (4)
11 Having given to the champ, do we go off? (8)
15 Indian doctor: a non-pacifist (6)
21 A girl, single, in a love entanglement (5)
24 Catching in the mesh (7)
25 I'm sorry for getting mean with the fellow (6)
26 Bill will make the accusation (6)
28 Managed to get the fish, a little perch, into it (5)
29 Say crossly "Modern music!" (3)
33 I'm changing into jeans to work in the garden (7)
34 Though stoned, matched one's wits against (6)
37 A tendency to turn right at the bottom (5)
40 Plump for sandwiches (5)
41 Fed up, has a meal after the drubbings (7)
43 Set up a record: a really good one (5)
44 Give in and propose (6)
46 Mean one's in a foreign city (5)
49 Having set off called through, which is odd (7)
51 Left a note: "Repair shed" (4-2)
53 Felt grand, having demolished Pedro (6)
55 Cut cold, Vera is upset (5)
58 Little devil creating panic among the angels? (4,6)
60 Duck having a swim (3)
62 Worries in case possibly there's rain (5)
63 Realising, as a business, "The Stag Inn" is rocky (9)
65 Game to cook the eel and trout (8)
68 The bird, having broken out, is able to (6)
70 Talk about that amazing topless dancer (7)
71 Doesn't give way to the awful stress one's put through (7)
75 Furious when you tease about drink (6)
76 Found the vessel (6)
77 Microwaves the last of the goulash and tucks in to (5)
78 Nestled in a hill, we find the building (5)
80 Lit up, holding a brush (4)
84 The cheek, putting up a convict who's at large (4)

PUZZLES

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, row and 3x3 square includes all the digits from 1 to 9

EASY

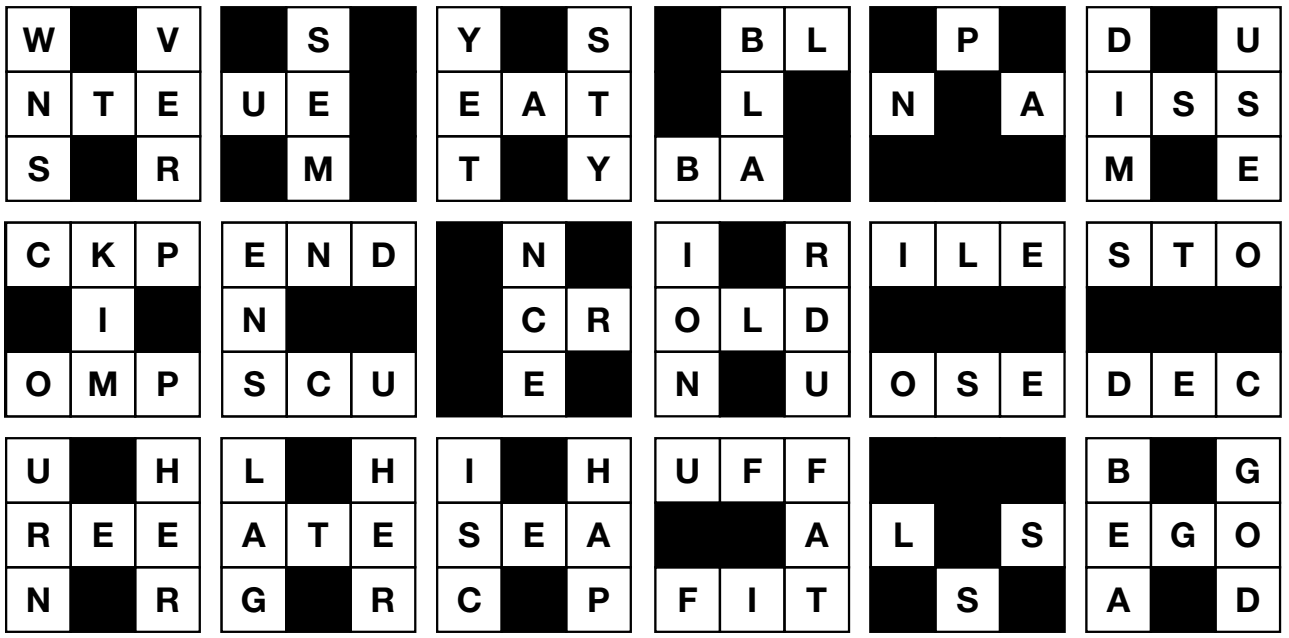
			1	4		9		5
	4	1		6	5			
	6	3				8		4
1			2		6		9	
8	3						4	6
	5		4		1			8
4		5				6	2	
			9	5		3	8	
3		8		2	7			

HARD

					3	4		6
	1			9	8			
		2						8
			6		7		4	3
	3						7	
5	7		2		1			
7						8		
			8	5			9	
2		9	1					

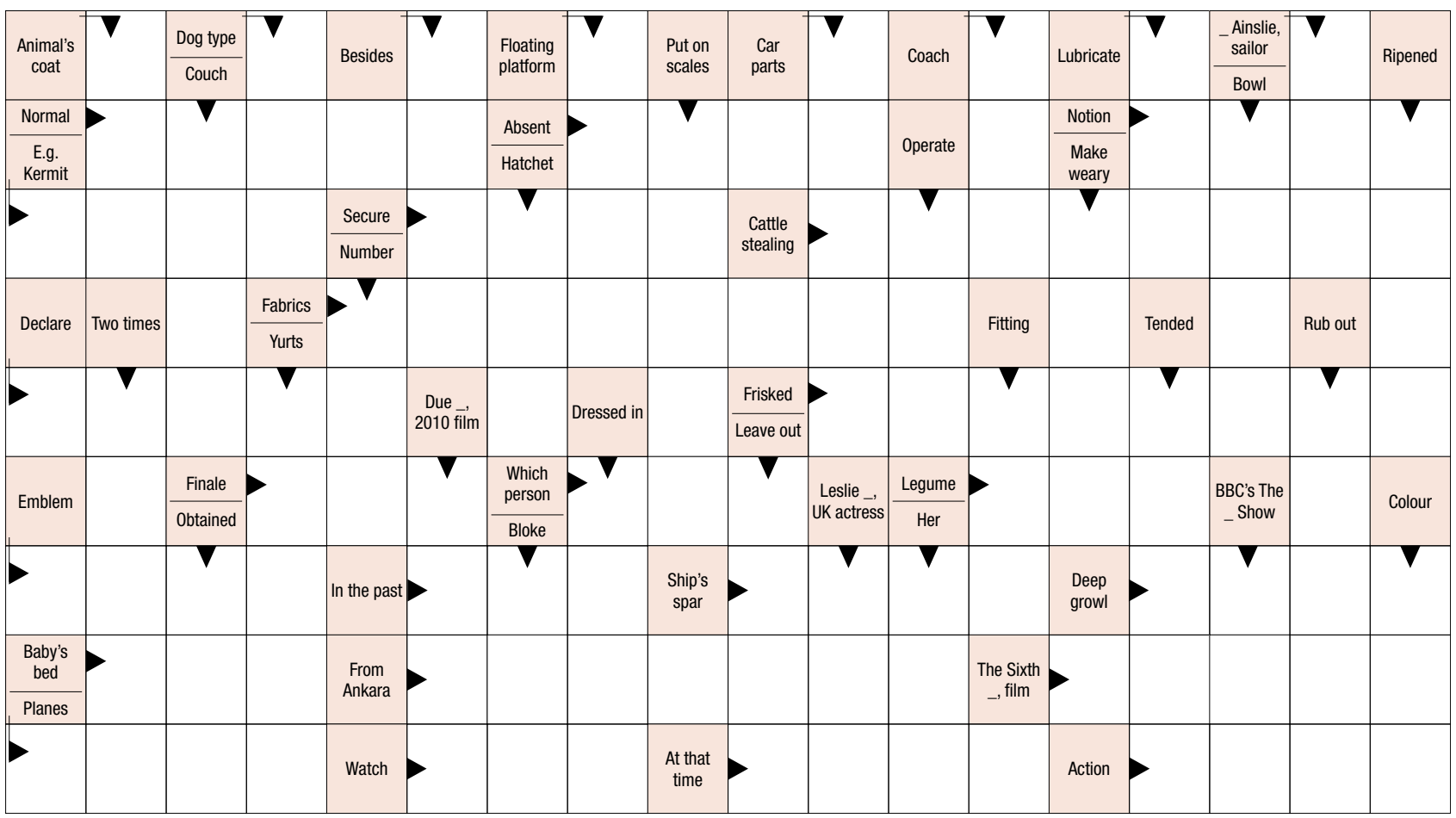
DOUBLE JIGWORD

Arrange these crossword fragments to create two completed symmetrical crosswords.



ARROW WORD

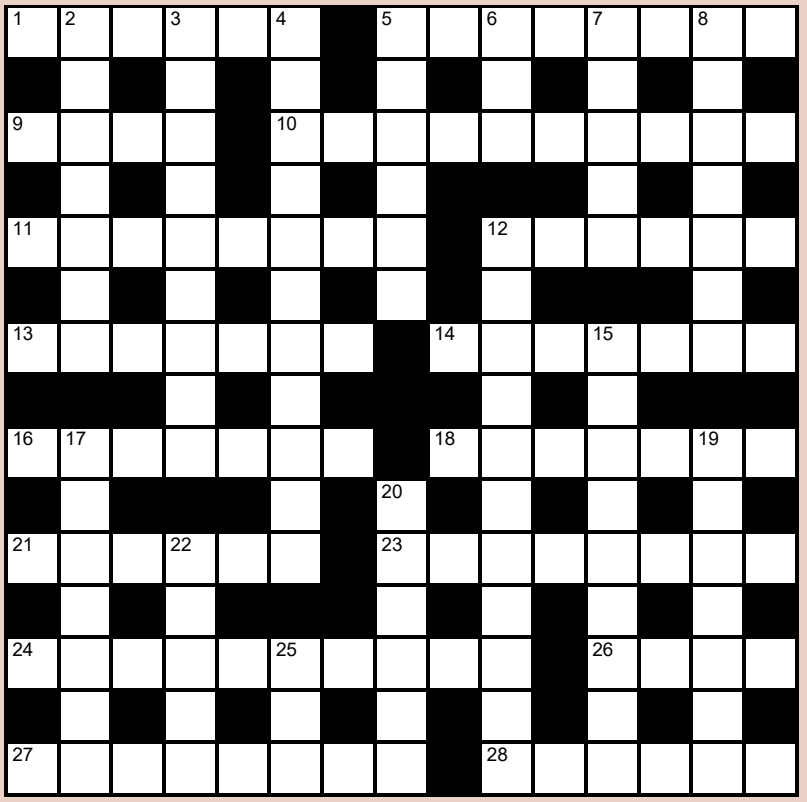
The arrows show the direction in which the answer to each clue should be placed.



PUZZLES

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Test your grasp of the facts with this general knowledge challenge.



ACROSS

1 Angel ranked below a seraph in Christianity (6)
5 Earl of ___, third husband of Mary Queen of Scots (8)
9 The ___, 1987 film drama starring Anjelica Huston and Donal McCann (4)
10 Pale greenish-blue variety of beryl (10)
11 1978 world individual speedway champion (3,5)
12 Rose ___, author of 2008 novel The Days Of Judy B (6)
13 Trojan elder and husband of Theano in Greek mythology (7)
14 Andrè ___, French general who defeated the Russians at Zèrich in 1799 (7)
16 German town whose castle was used as a Second World War P.O.W. camp (7)
18 2009 comedy starring Jack Black and Michael Cera (4,3)
21 James ___, Scottish painter whose works include 1869's Fisherman's Tales (6)
23 The ___, 1812 novel by Maria Edgeworth (8)
24 1998 romcom featuring, directed and co-written by John Turturro (10)
26 Nymph in Greek mythology spurned by Narcissus (4)
27 Words of opposite meaning to another (8)
28 ___ Variations, composition by Edward Elgar (6)

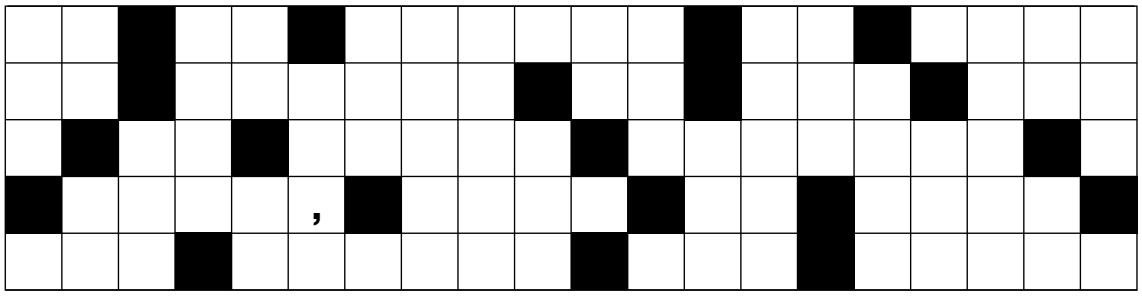
DOWN

2 Industrial city in Limburg, Netherlands; a major coal-mining centre until the early 1970s (7)
3 Thom Yorke is this band's lead vocalist (9)
4 The ___, 1900 novel by F. Anstey (5,6)
5 Jason ___, character played by Matt Damon (6)
6 Male of a cat (3)
7 City in Delta State, Nigeria, south-west of Osubi Airstrip (5)
8 The ___ fly is a tropical insect of the family Fulgoridae (7)
12 1980 film drama starring Kris Kristofferson and Christopher Walken (7,4)
15 National park in Tanzania which is a World Heritage site (9)
17 Ardal ___, stand-up comedian-actor who authored 1998 novel The Talk of the Town (7)
19 Hal ___, director of films Smokey and the Bandit and The Cannonball Run (7)
20 Port and capital of Amazonas, Brazil (6)
22 Any of several former Italian silver coins whose name derives from the Latin word for shield (5)
25 Woody climbing plant with lobed evergreen leaves (3)

QUOTE DOWN

Drop the letters in each column to reconstruct a quote by Maurice Switzer. Words may be split across two lines.

A	F	D	F	I	B	B	E	H	A	A	A	H	L	O	H	D	A	E	B	A
I	N	O	I	L	E	E	I	N	E	E	R	L	O	O	O	E	H	L	I	A
K	T	O	O	R	L	M	N	T	G	N	T	T	T	T	U	G	O	R	K	S
			S	S			O	V	T		T					T	R	U	M	T



LOGIC

Can you work out the details of Mr and Mrs Jones' summer of weddings?

Mr and Mrs Jones were looking back at their very busy summer. They had been to five different weddings, at five different locations, in five different months. They also had a different main course at each one.

After so many happy occasions, the memories had begun to mingle together, so Mr and Mrs Jones attempted to unpick the details:

"All I can say for sure is that the Dubois couple tied the knot in France, and that we had pork at the wedding of Mr and Mrs Thomas," said Mr Jones.

"That's right, and I know for a fact that we ate that delicious pork before the rather bland chicken dish up in Edinburgh," said Mrs Jones.

"I know we ate cod and chips at the July wedding in Yorkshire, but whenever it was that we ate the salmon, it certainly wasn't until after the Scotts' wedding."

"You're absolutely right. Also, I recall that the Campbells got hitched before the Scotts but after Mr and Mrs Singh."

"I remember that we travelled to the European mainland in September, because there was that whole issue with the passports. I also recall that one of the weddings in England was in May, but I can't remember which."

"I don't remember either, but I do know that we had the vegetarian dish at one of those English weddings, and that the event in Yorkshire didn't happen until after our trip to Italy."

Can you piece together the details of each wedding from the Jones' patchy recollections?

	Edinburgh	France	Italy	Devon	Yorkshire	Chicken	Mushroom	Cod and chips	Pork	Salmon	May	June	July	August	September
Campbell															
Dubois															
Scott															
Singh															
Thomas															
May															
June															
July															
August															
September															
Chicken															
Mushroom															
Cod and chips															
Pork															
Salmon															

BRAIN TRAINING

"The brain has corridors surpassing material place" – Emily Dickinson

Give your brain a proper workout with this fine selection of mini puzzles, designed to stimulate those little grey cells in five key areas – Words, Visualisation, Numbers, Memory and Logic.

WORDS

WORD LADDER

Change just one letter to go from the top word to the bottom word in the ladder. There may be more than one solution.

DUEL

PELT

ANAGRAMS

Unscramble each of the phrases below to reveal the names of five vegetables.

MOUNT GATE

WORE SCENT

AWFUL RECOIL

TO GET CURE

SURPLUS SORBETS

WORD SLIDE

How many regular English words can be spelled out using all the sliders? One word is spelled already. Target score: 18

	A		A	
W	R	U	V	K
S	C	A	L	E
T	L	I	C	D
C		E		M

NINER

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

2	7	5	1	8				

= a nobleman

3	7	6	7	8	9			

= a wise man

6	4	9	4	5	7	8		

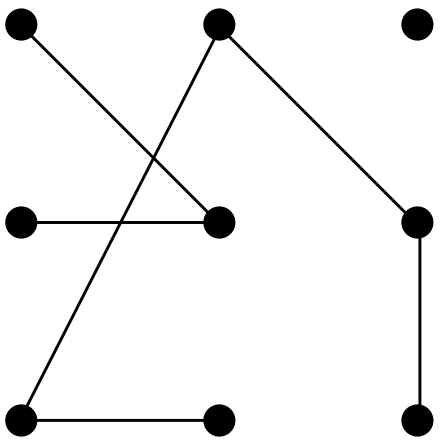
= an experienced man

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

VISUALISATION

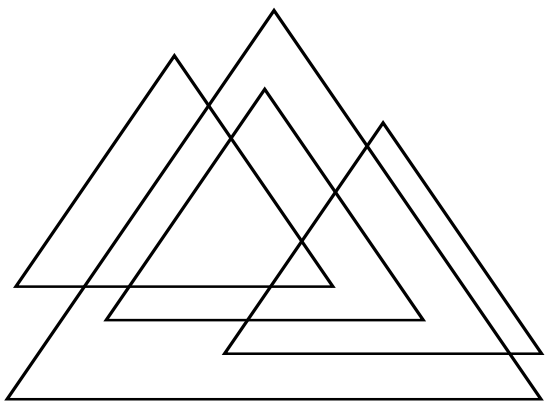
TRIANGLE

Draw **3** straight lines to make **5** triangles. Lines must be drawn from dot to dot, either passing through one dot or none at all. Triangles must not contain lines running through them, and every line segment must form part of a triangle.



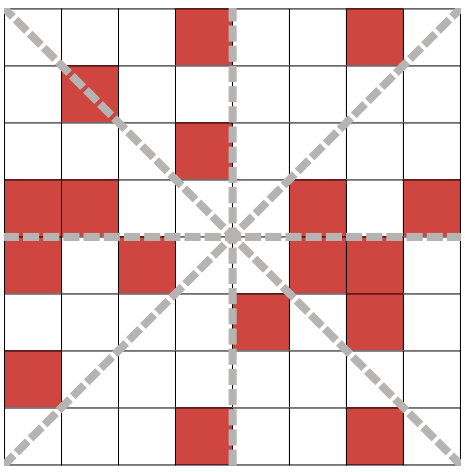
SHAPES

How many triangles are there in the illustration below?



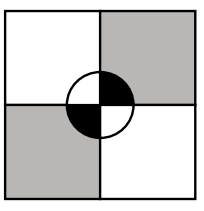
SYMMETRY

Shade in eight of the blank squares so that the pattern shows reflectional symmetry along one of the four axes shown.

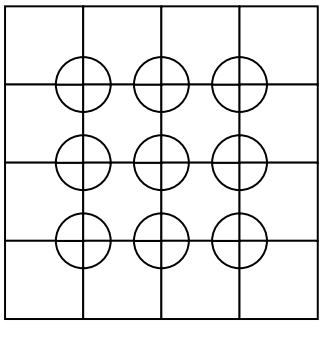


SEKI

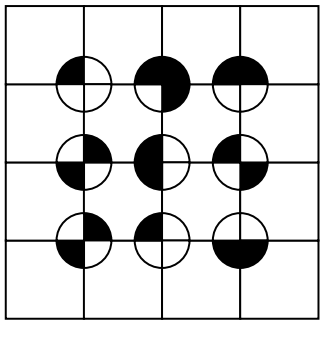
Using the blank grid, rotate some of the circles shown in the start grid and then shade in the corresponding squares (as shown right), so that shaded squares contain only black quarter-circles.



BLANK GRID

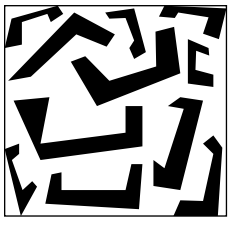


START GRID

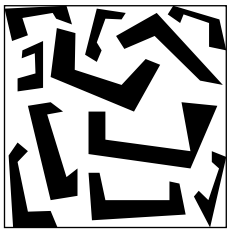


MIRROR IMAGE

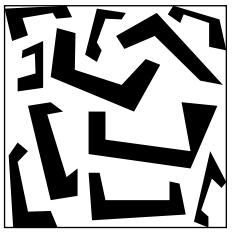
Which of the four images below is the mirror image of the one to the right?



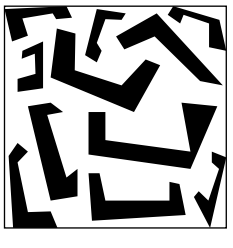
A



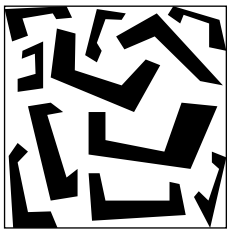
B



C



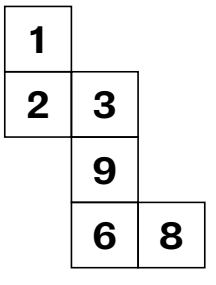
D



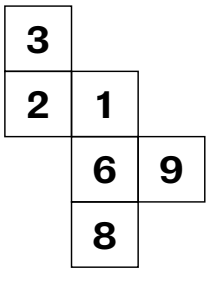
NETS

Which of these nets can be constructed to make a cube in which none of the pairs of opposite faces add up to the same number?

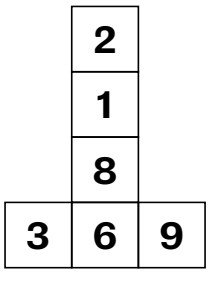
A



B



C



NUMBERS

SUMTHING

Place the listed numbers into the grid so that all sums are correct, reading left to right and top to bottom.

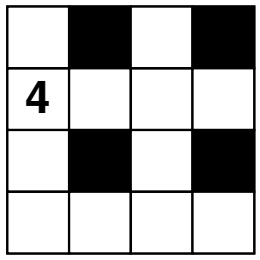
	×		=		
÷	■	+	■	+	■
	×	5	=		
=	■	=	■	=	■
	×		=		

0, 1, 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, 8, 8

NUMBER JIG

Which one of the listed numbers won't fit in this mini grid?

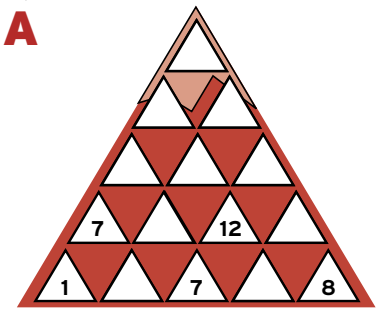
2423 5234
4252 5432
4423



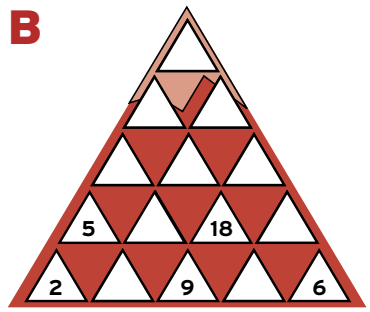
SUMMIT UP

If the number in each triangle is the sum of the two below, what is the top number?

A



B



LOGIC

CELLS

Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

		8		6		
			4		2	
5						4
		2	3			
2				5		3
	5					

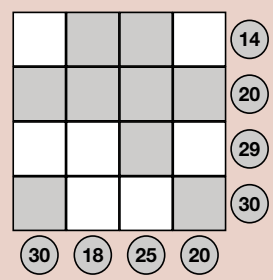
REASONING

1 Ned took an earlier class than the Pilates class which did not start at 5pm. Nate did not go to the 2pm class and Naz started her class after Neil. The person taking the yoga class started before Neil but not before 3pm. The aerobics class did not start before the karate class or at 4pm. Which class did each person take?

2 At the Easter egg hunt, Jay started hunting earlier than the person who went south, who did not start at 09:03. Jill did not start at 09:00. The person who went east started before Jon but not before 09:01. Jane started after Jon. The person who went north did not start before the person who went west or at 09:02. If each egg-hunter left at a different one-minute interval from 9am, and went in a different direction, in which direction and at which time did each person start the hunt?

EVENS

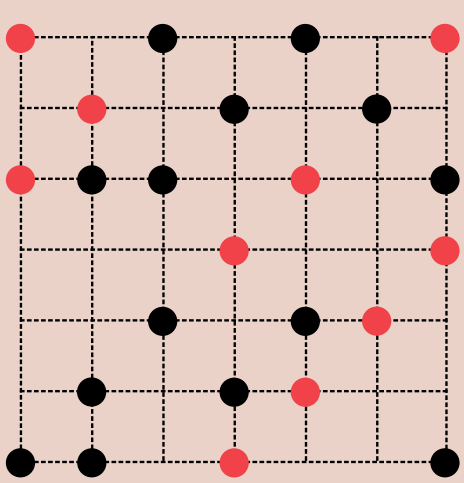
Insert any digit from 1 to 9 in the squares, so that the numbers in each row and column add up to the given totals. No digits may be repeated within a row or column, and even numbers must be placed in shaded squares.



DANGO

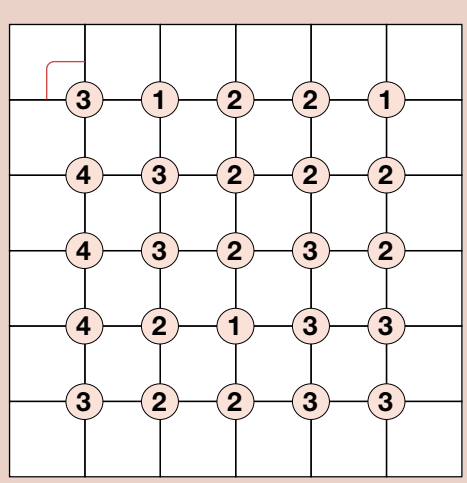
Draw lines between the dots to create four shapes in the grid. No shape may touch another and you must use all the dots. When a line reaches a dot, it turns as shown:

● 90° ● 45° or 135°



LOOP

Draw a continuous loop in the grid so that the number in each circle corresponds to the number of adjacent squares containing turns in the loop. Part of the loop has been drawn to get you started.



MEMORY

DICE GAME

Cover the bottom group of dice, and look closely at the top group for ten seconds. Then cover the top group and show the bottom group. Which dice are missing?

LOST FOR WORDS

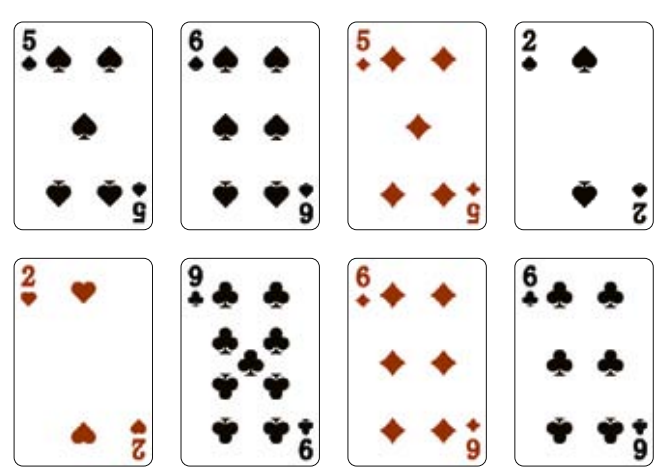
Cover the group of words on the right, then study the group on the left for two minutes. Then cover the group on the left and show the group on the right. Which words are missing?

CATTLE
CELERY
DEFINITELY
FELDSPAR
FENNEL
FREELANCE
GAZETTE
HARVEST
INDEPENDENT
LIBRARY
MERCURY
MOSQUE
NECESSARY
PERMAFROST
PLOUGH
PRISON
RECORDER
SALARY
SEDIMENT
STRIKE
WATERMELON

NECESSARY
PLOUGH
CATTLE
PRISON
FREELANCE
INDEPENDENT
PERMAFROST
STRIKE
SEDIMENT
FELDSPAR
DEFINITELY
CELERY
MOSQUE
FENNEL
WATERMELON
SALARY
LIBRARY
GAZETTE

CONCENTRATION

Study this set of playing cards for thirty seconds, then cover them up and answer the questions below.



1 How many odd-numbered cards are there? 2 What is the total value of the four cards on the left half of the set? 3 Of which suit is there not a six?

PUZZLES

30-SECOND BRAIN TEASER

Boost your brain power with our 30-second test. Start with the number on the left and follow the instructions. Beginners should aim to complete the puzzle in 30 seconds. Intermediates should finish their own puzzle and the Beginner's puzzle. Advanced players have 30 seconds to complete their own plus the Intermediate. Good luck!

BEGINNER	77	-41	5/6 of this	+27	÷3	-11	Square it	+17	÷3	ANSWER
INTERMEDIATE	244	3/4 of this	+68	Reverse the digits	÷8	-5	×7	+174	÷8	ANSWER
ADVANCED	124	+186	Increase by 60%	-232	7/11 of this	+47	3/5 of this	-84	40% of this	ANSWER

SOLUTIONS

CODEWORD
1=J, 2=L, 3=U, 4=I, 5=V, 6=N, 7=P, 8=C, 9=D, 10=Z, 11=G, 12=X, 13=W, 14=K, 15=Q, 16=F, 17=E, 18=O, 19=B, 20=Y, 21=M, 22=S, 23=A, 24=T, 25=H, 26=R

HONEYCOMB
1 Salver. 2 Lather. 3 Retain. 4 Alumni. 5 Madden. 6 Dabbed. 7 Beside. 8 Salami. 9 Maimed. 10 Manage. 11 Gander. 12 Degree.

PATTERN MAKER
SQUARE 2. The total area is divided into an increasing number of shapes each time, with each shape being of an equal area.

GIANT TWO-SPEED CROSSWORD
Across: 12 Letting drop, 13 Encore, 14 Reared, 16 Irma, 17 Turned off, 18 Lydia, 19 Rota, 20 Countless, 22 Wager, 23 In the news, 27 Discard, 30 Racket, 31 Hash, 32 Study, 35 Keep, 36 Plaudit, 38 Darn, 39 Mimicry, 42 Spades, 45 Mince, 46 Prevent, 47 Grub, 48 Pass, 50 Bungled, 52 Rogue, 54 Decide, 56 Refrain, 57 Cash, 59 Shouted, 61 Rock, 64 Frank, 66 Port, 67 Letter, 69 Appears, 72 Sure thing, 73 Stout, 74 Heartless, 79 Bent, 81 Taste, 82 Reasoning, 83 Urge, 85 Strike, 86 Notion, 87 Left one cold.
Down: 1 Deer, 2 Strain, 3 Instil, 4 Address, 5 Boxer, 6 Unaffected, 7 Rolls, 8 Seediness, 9 Breathe, 10 Pair, 11 Bestowed, 15 Mohawk, 21 Olive, 24 Netting, 25 Pardon, 26 Charge, 28 Coped, 29 Rap, 33 Jasmine, 34 Pitted, 37 Trend, 40 Round, 41 Defeats, 43 Place, 44 Submit, 46 Paris, 49 Strange, 51 Lean-to, 53 Groped, 55 Carve, 58 Holy terror, 60 Dip, 62 Cares, 63 Cognisant, 65 Roulette, 68 Toucan, 70 Chatter, 71 Resists, 75 Raging, 76 Launch, 77 Heats, 78 Tower, 80 Tail, 84 Gall.

GK CROSSWORD
Across: 1 Cherub, 5 Bothwell, 9 Dead, 10 Aquamarine, 11 Ole Olsen, 12 Heiney, 13 Antenor, 14 Massena, 16 Colditz, 18 Year One, 21 Cassie, 23 Absentee, 24 Illuminata, 26 Echo, 27 Antonyms, 28 Enigma.
Down: 2 Heerlen, 3 Radiohead, 4 Brass Bottle, 5 Bourne, 6 Tom, 7 Warri, 8 Lantern, 12 Heaven's Gate, 15 Serengeti, 17 O'Hanlon, 19 Needham, 20 Manaus, 22 Scudo, 25 Ivy.

QUOTE DOWN
"It is better to remain silent at the risk of being thought a fool, than to talk and remove all doubt"

WORD LADDER
One possible answer is:
Duel, Duet, Dust, Bust, Best, Pest, Pelt

ANAGRAMS
Mangetout, Sweetcorn, Cauliflower, Courgette, Brussels sprout

WORD SLIDE
Caulk, clack, clave, click, cluck, crack, crave, creak, cream, crick, sauce, scald, scale, slack, slave, slice, slick, trace, track, trave, tread, triad, trice, trick, truce, truck, waive, wrack, wreak, wreck

NINER
OBSERVANT

SHAPES
9

MIRROR IMAGE
C

NETS
C

SUMTHING
8x3=24, 2x5=10, 4x8=32

NUMBER JIG
5234

SUMMIT UP
A 95 B 110

REASONING
1 Ned karate, Nate yoga, Neil Pilates, Naz aerobics.
2 Jay 09:00 east, Jill 09:01 east, Jon 09:02 south, Jane 09:03 north.

EVENS
7421 8264 9587 6798

DICE GAME
Two and four

LOST FOR WORDS
Harvest, Mercury, Recorder

CONCENTRATION
1: 3, 2: 22, 3: Hearts

30-SECOND BRAIN TEASER
Beginner 27, Intermediate 34, Advanced 18.

WORDSEARCH

D	M	W	A	O	E	S	T	U	R	F	M	O	O	R	L	A	X	G
M	X	W	I	M	C	H	E	A	D	I	N	G	L	E	Y	R	V	W
W	K	Y	N	O	L	Q	P	G	G	O	O	D	W	O	O	D	I	R
S	R	N	T	D	A	P	S	P	Y	I	V	Z	A	C	C	E	L	B
I	K	U	R	U	O	R	O	S	E	B	O	W	L	N	E	E	L	O
L	O	U	E	R	F	N	M	M	B	B	D	N	P	N	D	P	A	E
V	L	R	E	A	N	F	I	E	L	D	N	O	F	I	A	D	P	D
E	O	A	K	W	E	L	L	N	R	R	M	H	S	G	B	A	A	G
R	M	O	L	I	N	E	U	X	G	K	R	E	H	T	N	L	R	B
S	Y	F	Q	T	N	D	Y	K	G	T	K	P	E	G	E	E	K	A
T	W	I	C	K	E	N	H	A	M	A	O	S	J	O	W	G	A	S
O	S	K	I	N	G	S	H	O	L	M	E	N	R	R	M	F	W	T
N	B	O	D	J	D	U	Y	N	T	L	U	Z	J	K	A	E	H	O
E	P	D	L	V	A	E	Q	A	B	H	H	L	C	F	R	C	E	N
S	B	V	E	I	L	S	M	I	L	B	E	R	U	D	K	I	N	Y
H	O	W	A	B	T	O	C	D	A	F	W	O	N	S	E	B	L	R
E	B	Q	M	Y	C	U	R	O	P	B	J	A	V	X	T	R	E	R
S	Q	E	E	I	R	D	D	D	T	V	T	S	L	A	A	O	Y	E
R	W	T	O	C	E	Y	O	E	S	S	G	B	M	J	L	X	S	W

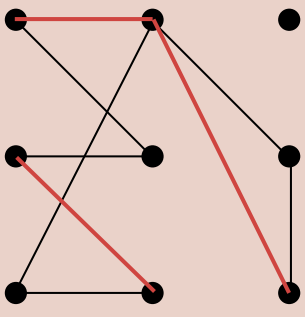
ARROWWORD

	F		P		E		R			T		B		O		B	
	U	S	U	A	L		A	W	A	Y		U		I	D	E	A
F	R	O	G		S	A	F	E		R	U	S	T	L	I	N	G
		F		T	E	X	T	I	L	E	S		I		S		E
S	T	A	T	E		E		G		S	E	A	R	C	H	E	D
	W		E	N	D		W	H	O			P	E	A		R	
S	I	G	N		A	G	O		M	A	S	T		R	O	A	R
	C	O	T		T	U	R	K	I	S	H		S	E	N	S	E
J	E	T	S		E	Y	E		T	H	E	N		D	E	E	D

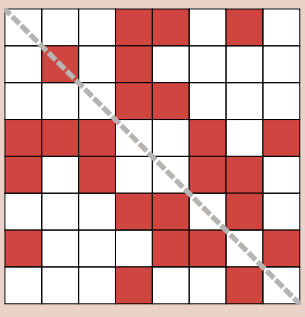
LOGIC

Couple	Location	Main course	Month
Campbell	Yorkshire	Cod and chips	July
Dubois	France	Salmon	September
Scott	Edinburgh	Chicken	August
Singh	Devon	Mushroom	May
Thomas	Italy	Pork	June

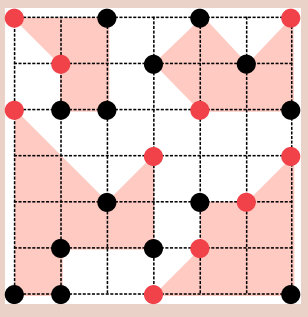
TRIANGLE



SYMMETRY



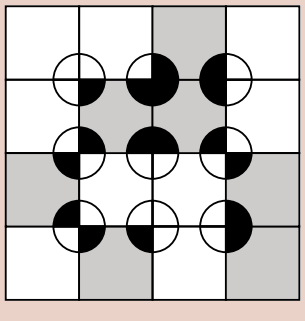
DANGO



SUDOKU EASY

2	8	7	1	4	3	9	6	5
9	4	1	8	6	5	7	3	2
5	6	3	7	9	2	8	1	4
1	7	4	2	8	6	5	9	3
8	3	2	5	7	9	1	4	6
6	5	9	4	3	1	2	7	8
4	9	5	3	1	8	6	2	7
7	2	6	9	5	4	3	8	1
3	1	8	6	2	7	4	5	9

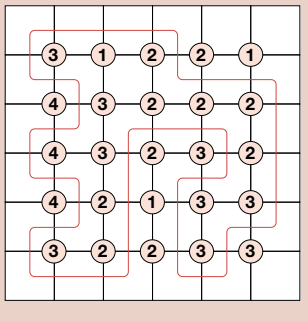
SEKI



CELLS

		8		6		
			4		2	
5						4
		2	3			
2				5		3
	5					

LOOP



SUDOKU HARD

8	9	7	5	2	3	4	1	6
3	1	6	4	9	8	2	5	7
4	5	2	7	1	6	9	3	8
9	2	1	6	8	7	5	4	3
6	3	8	9	4	5	1	7	2
5	7	4	2	3	1	6	8	9
7	4	5	3	6	9	8	2	1
1	6	3	8	5	2	7	9	4
2	8	9	1	7	4	3	6	5

DOUBLE JIGWORD A

U	■	H	■	■	■	Y	■	S
R	E	E	L	■	S	E	A	T
N	■	R	■	S	■	T	■	Y
S	T	O	C	K	P	I	L	E
■	■	■	■	I	■	■	■	■
D	E	C	O	M	P	O	S	E
I	■	H	■	P	■	W	■	V
S	E	A	N	■	A	N	T	E
C	■	P	■	■	■	S	■	R

DOUBLE JIGWORD B

D	■	U	■	S	■	B	■	G
I	S	S	U	E	■	E	G	O
M	■	E	■	M	■	A	■	D
E	N	D	■	B	L	U	F	F
N	■	■	■	L	■	■	■	A
S	C	U	B	A	■	F	I	T
I	■	R	■	N	■	L	■	H
O	L	D	■	C	R	A	T	E
N	■	U	■	E	■	G	■	R

BATTLESHIPS